This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

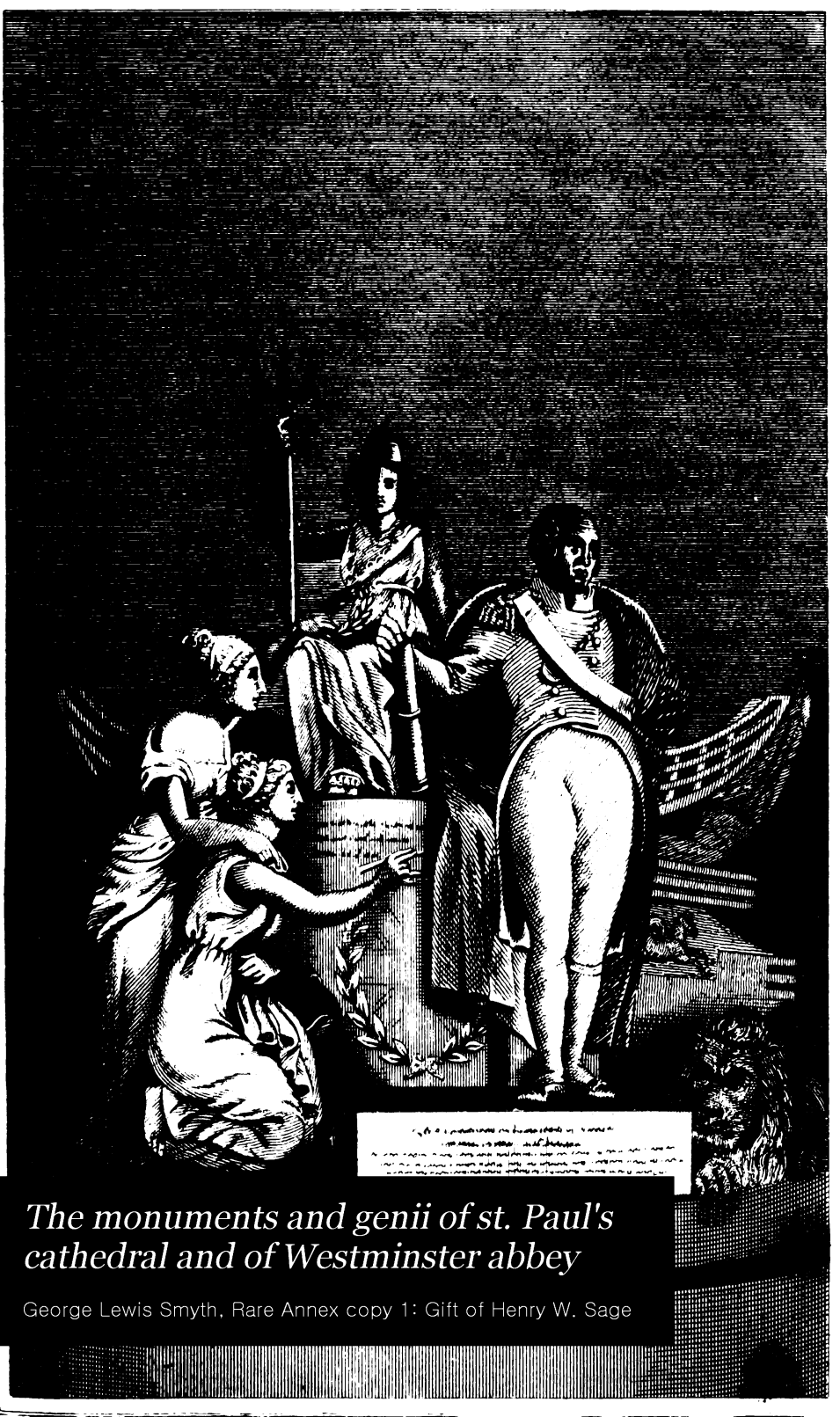
+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`



The monuments and genii of st. Paul's cathedral and of Westminster abbey

George Lewis Smyth, Rare Annex copy 1: Gift of Henry W. Sage

Egypt. Acad.
London
P. 215.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Digitized by Google

THE

MONUMENTS

And Genii

OF

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL,

AND OF

WESTMINSTER ABBEY;

WITH

Historical Sketches and Descriptions

OF

BOTH CHURCHES:

FORMING

An entirely new and correct Biography of all that is interesting in the Lives and Achievements of the most

ILLUSTRIOUS CHARACTERS OF THE UNITED KINGDOMS.

BY GEORGE LEWIS SMYTH.

ADDITIONALLY EMBELLISHED WITH

Coloured Views and Elevations,

VOL. II.

BIBLIOTECA BODLEIANA

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY JOHN WILLIAMS,
44, PATERNOSTER-ROW.
1826.

Digitized by Google

LONDON
PRINTED BY S. AND R. BENTLEY, DORSET-STREET.

Digitized by Google

DAVID GARRICK.

THE monument of this great actor is placed high in an arch of the Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey. He appears advancing between statues in Tragedy and Comedy, emblematically relieved, and in the act of throwing aside a curtain which concealed a medallion of Shakspeare, affixed to a back ground of dove-coloured marble. By these circumstances it is evidently designed to impress upon the spectator that he was principally distinguished by his illustrations of Shakspeare, and stood equally eminent in the two leading departments of the drama. To state that nature and allegory are well combined in the idea, is to pay a compliment rarely merited: it is a perspicuous performance, neatly finished, and theatrically effective. The inscriptions are these:—

To
The Memory of
DAVID GARRICK,
Who died in the year 1779,
At the age of 63.

To paint fair Nature by Divine command,
Her magic pencil in his glowing hand,
A Shakspeare rose—then, to expand his fame
Wide o'er this 'breathing world,' a Garrick came.
Though sunk in death the forms the poet drew,
The actor's genius bade them breathe anew;
Though, like the bard himself, in night they lay,
Immortal Garrick called them back to day:

Digitized by Google

And till eternity with power sublime
Shall mark the mortal power of hoary Time,
Shakspeare and Garrick, like twin stars, shall shine,
And earth irradiate with a beam divine. PRATT.

This* Monument, the tribute of a friend,
Was erected in 1787.
Webber, fecit.

* Close by, but along the lower range to the left, is a tabular monument, surmounted by a coat of arms, to the memory of Isaac Casaubon, an author and editor, eminent for his learning, who was born at Geneva in 1559. He was initiated in letters at Crest in Dauphiny, for which place his father was chosen Cabinet Minister. Removing to the University of his native place in 1578, his proficiency was so remarkable, that he became a Professor of Greek within the term of four years. In 1586, he married a daughter of Henry Stephens, the critical printer, a lady who bore him twenty children. In 1598, he proceeded to Paris, was patronised by Henry IV., made a Professor of the Metropolitan University, and presented with a pension, which was so irregularly paid as to provoke some complaints. Hopes were now entertained that he would imitate his royal master and become a convert to the Church of Rome, and his reluctance to concur with Du Plessis Mornay, in the conference held at Fontainbleau with Cardinal du Perron, gave force to the idea. He seems, however, to have been of Dr. Johnson's opinion, that a man should persist in the faith of his father; for though he inclined to the cause of the Pontiff, he refused to embrace his religion. In process of time he succeeded to the post of King's Librarian, and received an additional pension. His reputation was at the highest, when the assassination of Henry clouded all his prospects, and he again sought a new fortune in England. His reception was highly flattering: James I. treated him with great respect, and provided for his support by giving him a prebendal stall, first in Westminster Abbey, and afterwards in Canterbury Cathedral. In return for this patronage he humoured the temper of the sovereign by writing against the Catholics, an odious labour, to which, according to his panegyrists', gratitude, but not inclination, impelled him. The period of his death, which was occasioned by a disease of the bladder, will be found in the following version of the Latin epitaph upon his tomb:—

ISAAC CASAUBON,
(Arise, ye of the learned who remain,
To a name so venerable.)
Produced in Gaul, for the benefit of the Republic of Letters, the invincible Henry the IV., King of the French, called him from his studies to Paris, appointed him to preside over the Royal

Digitized by Google

David, the fourth child of Peter Garrick, a captain in the army, and Miss Clough, daughter of a Vicar in Litchfield Ca-

Library, and, while he lived, held him dear. When that Prince was torn away from the world, James, Monarch of Great Britain, the most learned of Kings, and most indulgent to the learned, invited him to England, and munificently cherished. Posterity must ever admire his learning.

He died breathing eternal life in Christ, on the kalends of July, 1614, aged 55, and lies buried here, superior to envy.

To a man the most excellent, and most worthy of immortality, Thomas Morton, Bishop of Durham, desired to consecrate This monument, 1634.

He who would become acquainted with Casaubon, should read not stones but his works, which must survive marble, and Instruct posterity.

ISAAC. CASAUBON,
(O Doctiorum quidquid est assurgite
Huic tam colendo nomini:)
Quem Gallia reip. literariæ bono
Peperit. Henricus IV. Francorum Rex
Invictissimus Lutetiam literis suis
Evocatum Bibliothecæ suæ præfecit,
Charumq. deinceps dum vixit habuit.
Eoq. terris erepto Jacobus Mag. Brit.
Monarcha Regum Doctissimus Doctis
Indulgentiss. in Angliam acoivit,
Munifice fovit. Posteritasq. ob
Doctrinam æternum mirabitur.

H. S. E. Invidia major:
Obiit Ætern. in XTO. Vitam anhelans
Kal. Jul. MDCIV. Æt. LV.
Viro opt. Immortalitate digniss.
TH. MORTONUS, Ep. Dunelm.
Jucundissimæ quoad frui

Digitized by Google

thedral, was born at the Angel Inn, Hereford, during the month of February, 1716. He was put under the care of Mr. Hughes, master of Litchfield grammar school, when only ten years old, and though he failed to give any marked earnest of literary talent, presented early indications of a theatrical taste; for he got up a performance of the Recruiting Officer amongst his school-fellows, and played the part of Serjeant Kitely, when not much more than twelve years old. After a short time he was sent to Lisbon, where a paternal uncle carried on an extensive business in the wine trade; but a fear that the levity of foreign manners might corrupt his disposition, occasioned a speedy return to his parents, who again placed him at school. The person to whom he was now confided was the celebrated Samuel Johnson, who proposed to receive a few pupils at Litchfield in 1739; but it is perhaps unnecessary to add, that those pupils were so very few, that he conceived a disgust for the character of a pedagogue, and that both

Licuit Consuetudinis
Memor, PR. S.P.C.V.
MDCXXXIV.

Qui nosse vult Casaubonū
Non saxa sed chartas legat

Superfuturas marmori
Et profuturas posteris.

Casaubon's character as a man has been described to us as modest, candid, upright, and averse to controversy. When shown into the Sorbonne, and told it was the place in which the fathers of the French Church had disputed for nearly 400 years, he simply exclaimed—"Ay, and what have they decided?" As a scholar, his industry and talent may be inferred from a list of his works, which comprise, 'In Diogenem Laertium Notæ,' fol.; 'Strabonis Geographiæ,' fol.; 'Novum Testamentum Græcum;' 'Lectiones Theocriticæ,' 12mo.; 'Polyæni Stratagematum;' 'Animadversiones in Dionysium Halicarnassensem;' 'Aristotelis Opera Græca,' fol.; 'Dicæarchi Geographia:' 'Theophrastes Characteres,' 12mo. 'C. Plinii Cæc. Sec. Epist.;' 'Suetonii Tranquilli Opera,' 4to.; 'L. Apuleii Apologia,' 4to.; 'Historiæ Augustæ Scriptores;' 'Athenæ Deipnosophistorum,' 2 vols. fol.; 'De Satyricâ Græcorum Poesi, et Romanorum Satyra;' 'Persii Satyræ,' 8vo.; 'De Libertate Ecclesiasticâ Liber,' 8vo.; 'Polybii Opera;' 'De Rebus Sacris et Ecclesiasticis Exercitationes,' fol.; 'Ad Frontonem Ducæum Epistola;' 'Epistola ad Card. Perronium." His own Epistles in Latin have also been repeatedly published.

Digitized by Google

he and his solitary pupil soon after set out on an excursion to London.

This journey, which took place early in the year 1736, has been ordinarily represented as a mere speculative adventure upon the part of the one and the other; but whatever may have been the case with Johnson, Garrick seems to have been directed to a fixed purpose, and to have been sufficiently provided with means for its attainment. He carried with him a letter of recommendation from Gilbert Walmesly, the registrar whom Johnson has so feelingly commemorated in the Lives of the Poets, to Mr. Colson, an eminent mathematical schoolmaster at Rochester. Under his tuition it was intended that Garrick should improve himself, while he kept his terms as a law student at Lincoln's Inn, where he was admitted on the 9th of March, 1736. It cannot, in all probability, be thought strange, that the youth who had gained no literary distinction when under the influence of an able master, should now fall short of the merits of gratuitous application to a dry study. Alike indifferent to law and mathematics, Garrick fortified his mind by none of the acquirements which his new situation afforded. Ere long the death of his father made him his own master, and soon after, the death of his uncle put him in possession of a thousand pounds. He abandoned the destined profession of law, engaged in the wine trade with a brother in Durham Yard, failed, and then threw himself on the stage.

His first appearance before the public was hazarded at Ipswich, during the summer of 1741, under the assumed name of Lyddal, and the management of Giffard, who also occupied the London theatre in Goodman's Fields. His success, even at a first effort, was complete: he began with the part of Aboam in Oroonoko, and ran through a variety of other characters with such consistent applause, that when the town season commenced in October, Giffard gave him an engagement. It has been represented that his services were previously declined by the proprietors of the standard houses, but there appears no evidence of such a fact; and the nature of his circumstances seems to refute the supposition. Be that as it may, he challenged the admiration of a metropolitan audience as Richard III. on the 19th of October, 1741, and decided his theatrical fortune in one night. The accounts which

Digitized by Google

describe this event are characteristically sublimated: we are told, for instance, 'that his conception of the part was so clear, his powers of execution so great, and the combination of talents he displayed so rich, varied, and uncommon, that he fixed his fame at one stamp, not only equal, but superior, to any actor of the time then present or past. *Like the sun bursting from behind a cloud, he put forth at his very earliest dawn a somewhat more than meridian brightness.* The polite establishments were deserted; the carriages of the fashionable, the wealthy, and the noble, poured down through the narrowness of the city to the obscurity of the east end, and every rank and order of society crowded to express their wonder at the newly-sprung Roscius.'

Tempering the heat of this inflation, however, Garrick's first appearance was distinguished by original merits which justify the highest praise. He had not exceeded his four-and-twentieth year; he was comparatively inexperienced in the profession, and yet had the courage to make an innovation, impressively recommended by good sense and taste. Laying aside the periodical recitation and affected rotundity, as well as the artificial motions of the old school, he delivered himself in a natural tone of voice, and adopted a perfect ease and freedom of bearing. This was a signal improvement, and it must have been ably enforced, or it never could have been tolerated without resistance. There was also a very commendable degree of tact evinced in his choice of the part of Richard: it required no dignity of stature, and little personal restraint, but abounded, on the contrary, with those strong and sudden variations of feeling which gave ample scope for the compass of voice and attitude in which he excelled.

The advantages which this popularity entailed upon the ignoble boards of the theatre in Goodman's Fields, naturally excited the resentment of the greater establishments, and two measures were adopted to subdue the attraction. On the one hand, Giffard was menaced with a prosecution for infringing upon their patents by performing the regular drama, while, on the other, Garrick was tempted from his service by the offer of a more advantageous engagement at Drury Lane. The latter took effect, and Garrick was legitimately established as an actor. Concluding the season of 1742 with increased distinction, he passed the summer in Dublin, where his reception was equally flattering, and returned to Lon-

Digitized by Google

don on the approach of winter. It was in this year that he began to exhibit the great versatility of his powers by assuming characters not only in comedy, but even in broad farce. To enumerate all his performances, or describe the particular effect which he produced at each effort, were a minute task inconsistent with the brevity imposed upon these sketches. It must, therefore, suffice to observe, that he continued a prosperous career at Drury Lane until the winter of the year 1745, when a stage quarrel with Macklin and some others, which excited considerable attention at the moment, but has long lost its interest, induced him to go a second time to Dublin, where he was made joint-manager with the elder Sheridan of the theatre in Smock Alley.

During this interval the fortune of the large London houses was disastrous in the extreme: that in Drury Lane laboured under a complication of difficulties, while that in Covent Garden was only enabled to wind up the year's accounts somewhat favourably, by giving Garrick 300*l.* for six performances. The engagement was renewed during the next year, and there ended his appearance as a hired actor; for such was the crowd he now drew with him, and so complete the desertion from the one theatre while he played at the other, that the Drury Lane patent was repeatedly brought into the market for sale. Tenders of it were made to several persons, but no one seemed willing to risk any thing upon it, though the price demanded was very moderate. At last it was suggested that Garrick, who had by this time acquired an exemplary character for personal discretion and frugality, should be introduced to assist Mr. Lacy, the only remaining proprietor of any responsibility. The offer once accepted, conditions were soon adjusted: a renewal of the patent was solicited and obtained; Lacy undertook to direct the general property, while Garrick managed the stage; and the house opened under auspicious circumstances, with the best of prologues, composed by Dr. Johnson and delivered by Garrick, in the spring of 1747.

The company mustered upon this occasion was strong in numbers, and commanding in talent: Barry,* Macklin, Mrs. Woffing-

* Spranger Barry, the only actor of the day who stood by Garrick as a rival, was interred in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey, and should therefore be commemorated here. A writer in a recent number of Blackwood's Magazine, who seems to have witnessed his performances, thus describes

Digitized by Google

ton, Mrs. Clive, and Mrs. Cibber, headed the roll; but, what with jealousy of the acting manager, and the intrigues of Covent Garden, they, one after another, broke their engagements, and, though some found it prudent to return, particularly Mrs. Cibber, they were never all of them reunited under the same authority. These disappointments, however, disheartened Garrick in no apparent degree; he redoubled his exertions, and soon exalted the theatre to a flourishing state. Of the means by which this end was attained, his own dramatic compositions formed no mean portion: of them, therefore, it may be proper to treat here. His first essay was the farce of the 'Lying Valet,' produced in Goodman's Fields so early as the year 1741: it was taken from the French, and acquiring the praise due to an interesting plot and original characters, was often rehearsed with applause. This was followed, and with greater success, by 'Miss in her Teens, or the Medley of Lovers,' a diverting farce, produced at Covent Garden in 1747, which retained its place on the stage for a considerable time. 'Lethe,' a dramatic satire, as it is now printed, appeared at Drury Lane, in 1749, but claims an earlier birth. It was his first production, having been performed at Drury Lane, in 1740; reproduced at Goodman's Fields during the following year; printed in 1745, and finally enlarged, as before stated, in 1749. But though the wit of this piece was confessedly good, and the points strong, and though Garrick played three different characters in it with his wonted facility, great opposition was offered to its reception at the beginning. Perseverance and corrections, however, smoothed its way, and it at last became a standard drama.

his merits:—"In Romeo, he disputed the palm with Garrick; in Lear, approached to an equality; and in Othello and Alexander the Great, shone unrivalled." Born and educated in Dublin, he there made his appearance on the stage. His chief sources of attraction were the gifts of bountiful nature; a melodious voice, elegant figure, and most gentlemanly address. He preceded Garrick on the London boards; became manager of the Dublin theatre about the year 1760, and in that speculation lost all his property. Coming back to London after this disaster, he continued to play the leading parts in tragedy at Covent Garden, Drury Lane, and the Haymarket, until the period of his death, which took place during the year 1777, at the age of 58. He was married, but left no issue. His wife was the fair tragic actress Mrs. Dancer, subsequently better known by the name of her third husband, Mr. Crawford.

Digitized by Google

'The Fairies,' an opera, from the 'Midsummer Night's Dream,' and 'The Tempest,' an opera, also from Shakspeare's play of the same name, were brought forward, the one for the season of 1755, and the other for that of 1756. The music to both was composed by Smith, and pleased, but the compilations themselves were puny, and only answered for purposes of the moment. 'Catherine and Petruchio,' produced in 1756, being nothing more than a judicious transposition of Shakspeare's 'Taming of the Shrew,' requires no comment. 'Florizel and Perdita,' acted in the same year, stands in the same predicament: it is only an extract from the 'Winter's Tale.' 'Lilliput,' a dramatic entertainment, which was got up for Woodward's benefit, in 1757, may be dismissed with a notice that it was played by children: it boasts, however, one revival. The farce of the 'Male Coquette,' a second compliment to the same benefit, had more merit, and, notwithstanding the solecism of the title, succeeded to some popularity. The characters whom it exposed to ridicule were the dandies of that day, who passed by the name of Daffodils. 'The Guardian,' a comedy in two acts, was a charitable contribution to a benefit given at Drury Lane in 1759, for the relief of Christopher Smart, an unhappy poet, then suffering an imprisonment for debt. Taken from the 'Pupille' of Fagan, it is simple and sentimental: it was published in 1773, and has been occasionally revived. 'The Enchanter, or Love and Magic,' a musical drama, acted in 1760, is distinguishable as the piece in which Leoni, the singer, was originally introduced to the stage. 'The Farmer's Return from London,' was an interlude presented to Mrs. Pritchard for her benefit in 1762, but frequently repeated on account of the humorous account it gave of the follies and wonders of the town—the Coronation and the Cock-lane Ghost. 'The Clandestine Marriage,' a comedy in five acts, first performed in 1766, is beyond question the best composition to which the name of Garrick is attached; but, if the story told by the elder Colman, who was admitted on the title-page to the honour of joint authorship, be correct, and no one has arraigned it, little merit can be awarded to him for it. "Garrick," said Colman, according to a verbal account, "brought me two acts, desiring me to put them together, and do what I could with them. I did put them together, for I put them into the fire, and wrote

Digitized by Google

the play myself." 'Neck or Nothing,' a farce from the French of Le Sage, was damned in 1766; and 'Cymon,' a dramatic romance, acted during the following year, deserved the same fate, but was urged into considerable effect by a misplaced richness of scenery and musical elegance. 'The Peep behind the Curtain, or the New Rehearsal,' was a farce which ran with uncommon applause for one hundred and eighty nights during the season of 1767. The music was by Barthelemon, a man of such ready talent and pleasing address, that Garrick promised to make his fortune. The first work put into his hands for this great purpose, was the music to this farce, by which Garrick cleared some thousands of pounds, but out of which he only gave the deluded musician forty pounds, though he had promised fifty guineas. 'The Irish Widow,' a comedy in two acts, from the French of Moliere, was successful in 1772. 'The Christmas Tale,' a dramatic entertainment, in five parts, was hooted from the stage in 1774, notwithstanding the beauties of some scenery by De Lutherbourg, and music by Dibdin. 'Bon Ton, or High Life above Stairs,' was represented for the benefit of King, in 1775, and much praised for liveliness, character and moral. 'May Day,' a musical farce, acted in the same year, is only memorable for the first introduction of Miss Abrams, the singer, who composed the popular air of 'Crazy Jane.' 'The Theatrical Candidates,' a musical prelude, in 1775; and 'Linco's Travels,' an interlude for King's benefit, in 1767, were his last compositions. It is to be observed, however, that he acquired considerable reputation by the alterations, and even additions which he introduced at different times into several of our standard dramas, such as Wycherley's 'Country Girl,' Ben Jonson's 'Every Man in his Humour,' Shirley's 'Gamester,' &c. &c.

Garrick married in June, 1749: his lady was an opera-dancer from Vienna, the place of her birth, whence she came to this country, with high recommendations to the patronage of the Earl of Burlington. Her maiden name was originally Viegel, which, for the sake of softness, she afterwards changed into Violette. Whether from admiration of her professional accomplishments, or respect for the friends who introduced her, she was treated by the noble lord just mentioned with uncommon attention, made an inmate at Burlington House, watched over by the Countess with

Digitized by Google

maternal care, and presented with a fortune of 6000*l.* upon the day of her marriage. Circumstances so extraordinary gave rise to a very general idea that she was his lordship's natural daughter; but the supposition has been justified by no facts. The match, however, was in every respect a cordial and happy one: the circle of Garrick's acquaintance included the most distinguished men in literature and the arts; he was moreover familiar with the great, and, by a happy admixture of respectful ease and unexceptionable decorum, secured for her the society of the most dignified characters.

The reputation in which Garrick now stood before the world was, beyond a question, far superior to any previously enjoyed by a member of his profession. Happy as an author, and as an actor equally perfect in tragedy, comedy, or farce, he was more particularly honoured as a reformer of the pure drama, and the reviver of its chief idol, Shakspeare. But, though his career mus in truth be described as prosperous and successful from beginning to end, yet an evident parsimony in his managerial system, and occasionally something like a vain indifference to authors, brought about several mortifying ebullitions of popular hostility. The year 1755, above others, was marked by these feelings. The press had been for some time employed to rail against what was then termed the *avaricious* disposition of the Drury-lane proprietors, who grudged the expense of varying the public entertainments with a more decorative stage, dancing, music, gay scenery, &c. The *bare* merits of antient authors were alone offered for amusement, and this was set down as an instance of great presumption. In order to appease these murmurings, a ballet-master was appointed, with full powers to collect an effective body of figurants, who in a short time amounted to a hundred in number. They were drawn from Italy, Germany, Switzerland, and France, and were presented before the town in a grand entertainment of dancing, entitled the Chinese Festival. Meantime, however, a war was declared against France, and on the instant another clamour was raised against the managers—they were loudly reproached for encouraging a set of French actors and workmen, and thus employing the common enemies of the country. This was an unfortunate predicament; the new engagements had been entered into in obedience

Digitized by Google

to the public voice, and that voice was now thundered against the proprietors in dire tones of resentment for that very acquiescence. During the first night on which the ballet was brought forward, the King attended the theatre, and the performances passed over with a stifled composure, but on the following evening nothing could stem the exasperation of the audience. This opposition was persisted in for five successive representations, blows were nightly struck in the house, a continued tumult prevailed, and at last, after doing considerable damage to the interior of the theatre, a mob proceeded to Garrick's residence, in Southampton-street, and demolished all his windows. The piece was therefore laid aside, and Garrick complained that he lost 4000*l.* in the uproar.

After spending the years 1764 and 65 in a Continental excursion for the benefit of his health, he returned to London, and was received with the most flattering congratulations. From this period, however, he declined the assumption of any new parts, but continued to appear from season to season in those old characters which had first made him a favourite. In 1769 he signalized his admiration for Shakspeare, by instituting the Stratford Jubilee, an undertaking which afforded ample materials for wit and ridicule to the public prints of the day, and was in the celebration almost damped into a positive failure by rainy weather. For this disappointment, however, he was compensated in another way: he introduced the ceremony as a spectacle upon the stage, and it was repeated to crowded audiences for ninety-two nights. In 1773 death deprived him of his partner, Mr. Lacy, and the sole management of the theatre thenceforward devolved upon his shoulders. Equal popularity attended his efforts until the year 1776, when, feeling satisfied with the fortune and fame he had acquired, he resolved to retire to the ease of private life. He disposed of a moiety of his interest in the patent for 37,000*l.*; and after performing the part of Don Felix in the 'Wonder,' for the benefit of the Theatrical Fund, took leave of the audience in these terms:—

"Ladies and Gentlemen,

"It has been customary with persons under my circumstances to address you in a farewell epilogue. I had the same intention, and turned my thoughts that way; but, indeed, I felt myself as

Digitized by Google

incapable of writing such an epilogue as I should now be of speaking it. The jingle of rhyme and the language of fiction would but ill suit my present feelings.—

(Here we are told he paused and wept.)

Whatever may be the changes of my future life, the deep impression I have of your kindness will always remain *here* (hand upon breast) fixed and unalterable. I will very readily agree to my successors having more skill and ability for their station than I have, but I defy them all to take more sincere and more uninterrupted pains for your favour, or to be more truly sensible of it, than is your most obedient grateful servant."

Garrick spent the remainder of his life, during the winter at his house in the Adelphi, and during the summer at a neat residence on the Thames, near Hampton Court. In this latter capacity of a country gentleman, the King put him into the commission of the peace, but he was not destined to enjoy any great happiness. The stone, a disorder to which he had been long subject, now began to make such inroads on his constitution that he was seldom free from pains, or equal to the excitement of society. With a hope of alleviating its tortures, he was induced to avail himself of some quack medicines, and by injudiciously tampering with the malady, encreased its ravages. During the Christmas of 1778 he was taken violently ill, while on a visit to Lord Spencer's seat, at Althorpe, but recovered sufficiently to return slowly to London, and expire at his house in the Adelphi, on the 20th of January, 1779. His funeral took place on the first day of the following month: it was a public one, solemnized with every circumstance of pomp, and attended by the highest characters in the country.

As a man, Garrick's character has generally been represented infected with much vanity and great parsimony, two faults for which his friend and tutor Doctor Johnson was accustomed alternately to condemn and defend him with earnest warmth. As an actor, we can only infer his capabilities from the variety of parts for which we find his name recorded, and adopt a description of his peculiarities from the attestations of those who were his contemporaries. In his Life by Davies, or by Murphy, but particularly in the former, an ample analysis of his many excel-

Digitized by Google

lencies will be found. The following is the summary in which the editor of the Biographia Dramatica compresses the information thus derived:—

"Garrick in his person was low, yet well shaped and neatly proportioned, and, having added the qualifications of dancing and fencing to that natural gentility of manner, which no art can bestow, but with which our great mother Nature endows many, even from infancy, his deportment was constantly easy, natural, and engaging. His complexion was dark; the features of his face pleasing and regular, but animated by a full black eye, brilliant and penetrating. His voice was clear, melodious, and commanding; and, although it might not possess the strong overbearing powers of Mossop, or the musical sweetness of Barry, yet it appeared to have a much greater compass of variety than either; and, from his judicious manner of conducting it, enjoyed that articulation and piercing distinctness, which rendered it equally intelligible, even to the most distant parts of an audience, in the gentle whispers of murmuring love, the half-smothered accents of ill-felt passion, or the professed and sometimes awkward concealments of an aside speech in comedy, as in the rants of rage, the darings of despair, or all the open violence of tragical enthusiasm.

"His particular forte or superior cast in acting, it would be perhaps as difficult to determine, as it would be minutely to describe his several excellencies in the very different casts in which he at various times thought proper to appear. Particular superiority was swallowed up in his universality; and should it even be contended, that there have been performers equal to him in their own respective fortes of playing, yet even *their* partisans must acknowledge there never existed any one performer that came near his excellence in so great a variety of parts. Tragedy, comedy, and farce, the lover and the hero, the jealous husband who suspects his wife's virtue without cause, and the thoughtless lively rake who attacks it without design, were all alike open to his imitation, and all alike did honour to his execution. Every passion of the human breast seemed subjected to his powers of expression; nay, even time itself appeared to stand still, or advance, as he would have it. Rage and ridicule, doubt and de-

Digitized by Google

spair, transport and tenderness, compassion and contempt, love, jealousy, fear, fury, and simplicity, all took successive possession of his features, while each of them in turn appeared to be the sole possessor of those features. One night old age sat on his countenance, as if the wrinkles she had stamped there were indelible; the next the gaiety and bloom of youth seemed to overspread his face, and smooth even those marks which time and muscular conformation might have really made there. Of these truths no one can be ignorant, who ever saw him in the several characters of Lear or Hamlet, Richard, Dorilas, Romeo, or Lusignan; Ranger, Bays, Drugger, Kitely, Brute, or Benedict. In short, Nature, the mistress from whom alone this great performer borrowed all his lessons, being in herself inexhaustible, and her variations not to be numbered, it is by no means surprising, that this, her darling son, should find an unlimited scope for change and diversity in his manner of copying from her various productions. As if she had marked him out for her truest representative from the cradle, she bestowed on him such powers of expression in the muscles of his face, as no performer ever yet possessed; not only for the display of a single passion, but also for the combination of those various conflicts with which the human breast at times is fraught; so that in his countenance, even when his lips were silent, his meaning stood pourtrayed in characters too legible for any to mistake it."

Facts, however, are the best testimonies, and we shall therefore offer an authentic anecdote:—

"During his visit to France, he made a short excursion from the capital with the celebrated Parisian performer, Preville. They were on horseback, and Preville took a fancy to act the part of a drunken cavalier. Garrick applauded the imitation, but told him he wanted one thing which was essential to complete the picture; he did not *make his legs drunk*. 'Hold, my friend, (said he) and I will show you an English blood, who, after having dined at a tavern, and swallowed three or four bottles of Port, mounts his horse on a summer evening to go to his box in the country.' Proceeding immediately to exhibit all the gradations of intoxication, he called to his servant, that

Digitized by Google

the sun and the fields were turning round him; whipped and spurred his horse until the animal reared and wheeled in every direction: at length he lost his whip, his feet seemed incapable of resting in the stirrups, the bridle dropped from his hand, and he appeared to have lost the use of all his faculties. Finally, he fell from his horse in such a death-like manner, that Preville gave an involuntary cry of horror; and his terror greatly increased when he found that his friend made no answers to his questions. After wiping the dust from his face, he asked again, with the emotion and anxiety of friendship, whether he was hurt. Garrick, whose eyes were closed, half opened one of them, hiccuped, and, with the most natural tone of intoxication, called for another glass. Preville was astonished; and when Garrick started up, and resumed his usual demeanour, the French actor exclaimed—'My friend, allow the scholar to embrace his master, and thank him for the valuable lesson he has received.'"

As an author, Garrick was only respectable: besides the dramatic works already noticed, he composed an infinitude of prologues, epilogues, songs, and epigrams, remarkable for liveliness and uncommon variety. Dr. Johnson has observed that Dryden wrote better prologues than Garrick, but that Garrick wrote more good ones than Dryden. He commemorated the death of Mr. Secretary Pelham in an ode, which, as we are told, ran through four editions in six weeks, and ridiculed a Mr. Fitzgerald, who had attacked him through the Craftsman, in a poem called 'Fribleriad,' which has been pointedly commended by Churchill. This effusion, however, affected his interests in an unexpected way, for soon after its appearance, Fitzgerald roused up a party who compelled the managers of Drury-lane to abandon a privilege which they had retained up to this period—of refusing any admissions at half-price upon the night of a new representation.—Sheridan honoured Garrick's death with a Monody, spoken at Drury-lane Theatre, but there does not remain room for its insertion.

Digitized by Google

JOHN GAY.

Gay's monument, executed by Adams, and erected by his patrons the Duke and Duchess of Queensbury, stands in the southern extremity of the Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey. The design, simple in the extreme, presents his bust supported by a cherub on an elevated pedestal of fine marble, which is decorated with emblematical devices of music, comedy, and poetry. Altogether, it is rather a heavy performance. His own brief epitaph, which has been so often condemned for its levity, and can never be relished for its point, is engraved upon the ledge:—

Life is a jest, and all things show it;
I thought so once, but now I know it.

Underneath are the affectionate lines in which Pope essayed to commemorate his merits as an author, and his character as a man.

Of manners gentle, and affections mild,
In wit a man, simplicity a child;
With native humour tempting virtuous rage,
Form'd to delight at once, and lash the age,
Above temptation in a low estate,
And uncorrupted even among the great;
A safe companion, and an easy friend,
Unblamed through life, lamented in thy end:
These are thy honours! not that here thy bust
Is mix'd with heroes, or with kings thy dust,
But that the worthy and the good shall say,
Striking their pensive bosoms—Here lies Gay!

He died December the 4th, 1732, aged 45.

Digitized by Google

John Gay was born at Exeter during the year 1688, and educated at the Free School of Barnstable, under a master named Luck, who subsequently published a volume of Latin and English poetry. His family, though antiently estated, was so reduced at the period of his youth, that no higher prospects of settling him in the world occurred to their ambition than an apprenticeship to a London silk-mercer, in the Strand. Of the time he spent in this servile employment, or the manner in which he occupied his leisure, no account has been given. His own entreaties are said to have prevailed upon his master to cancel the contract subsisting between them. In 1712, he obtained by some influence unknown, the post of Secretary in the household of the Duchess of Monmouth; and during the following year started in the career of an author, by publishing 'Rural Sports,' an eclogue, in two cantos, which he inscribed to Pope. The friendship of the latter was the only advantage which this effort produced, or deserved to produce. It is an outline neither judiciously planned, nor neatly sketched; the verses are separately smooth, and the thoughts plain, but the diction is not always correctly expressed, and there is no richness of imagination revealed in the style.

His next performance was 'Trivia; or, The art of walking the Streets of London,' perhaps the best of his miscellaneous poems: the subject is peculiarly fitted to the nature of his talents, and he has executed it with much pleasantry. The 'Shepherd's Week,' a poem in six pastorals, dedicated to Lord Bolingbroke, followed in 1714. It has been suggested, that he was incited to this composition by Pope, who, disrelishing the praises awarded to Ambrose Phillips for his essays in the same style of poetry, sought to establish the inadequacy of making pastorals so many strict copies of nature. For this undertaking he fixed upon Gay, an author by this time associated with the prominent wits of the day, and rapidly advancing into public estimation. The effect of this literary scheme was curious: Gay fulfilled the project to an extreme, bordering upon grossness and degradation; the literati were satisfied that to be tasteful a pastoral must not be natural; but the public seized upon the poems with delight, and read them with avidity, as painting with sincerity the real manners and occupations of rural life.

Digitized by Google

We are now to consider him as a dramatist: after printing the 'Mohocks,' a tragi-comical farce, without his name, he brought forward the 'Wife of Bath,' a comedy borrowed from Chaucer's Tales. It was acted at the theatre in Drury Lane during the year 1713, but obtained neither honour or profit. Yet he seems to have regarded it with tenderness; for, seventeen years afterwards, when the town was flushed with the success of the 'Beggar's Opera,' he reproduced it, with alterations, and had the mortification of seeing it again rejected.

This misfortune, however, was compensated by better things, for the amiability of his manners had now so strongly attached to his interest several of those great men whom literary merit had first drawn to an acquaintance with his person, that in the last year of Queen Anne's reign he was appointed secretary to the Earl of Clarendon in an embassy to the Court of France. Great hopes were excited in his breast by this preferment; and, as his temperament was sanguine, he looked forward to a speedy possession of all those emolumentary offices to which talent such as his had occasionally been advanced in the course of our history. But the anticipation was soon blasted: Queen Anne died, the House of Hanover succeeded to the throne; and, as Gay had chosen his friends from among the dependants of the Stuarts, there appeared at first no prospect of success for his ambition under the new order of things.

Poets, however, have immemorially been accustomed to apply the license of their noble art to meaner things: Gay resumed courage and adopted the prudent resolution of making those flowers which had proved acceptable to one family, equally pleasing to another. With this view he produced, and dedicated to the Princess of Wales, the 'What d'ye call it?' a tragi-comi-pastoral farce, acted at Drury Lane in 1715. This vagary was meant to ridicule the dominant passion for tragedies, but the imagery being ludicrous and the action grave, the audience did not at first enter into the project, and some laughed while others cried. From the beginning it was highly extolled by the wits, and as soon as the jest was taken, became sufficiently popular. Two years after he sought to pursue the credit of this career by entertaining the town with a comedy, in three acts, entitled 'Three Hours after Marriage.' The title-page gave only his own name as the au-

Digitized by Google

thor, but it was generally understood to have been written conjointly by him, Pope, and Arbuthnot. The association of intellect thus employed was certainly powerful, yet the effect was by no means successful. The play stood for seven nights with great difficulty, and was then driven off the stage with the most positive declarations of censure. One object it proposed, was the ridicule of Dr. Woodward, who had then begun to direct his attention to fossile antiquities,—a pursuit as little open to contempt as the character of the man was liable to satire. It cannot be regretted that the comedy which wantonly tampered with domestic life should be exploded with the disgust such an outrage must always deserve.

Gay was truly, as Pope observed, a simple mortal: up to this period he had lived on in the ardour of hope, expecting every day to rise to fame and independence, but finding himself at the close of each succeeding year as poor and unprovided as he had been at the beginning of it. The mind that is easily roused to the enthusiasm of hope is at intervals sure to fall into the opposite extremes of depression. Such was now the case with Gay: his spirits sunk in disappointment, and although no claim of merit availed to procure a substantial remedy for his distress, yet the regard which his manners had excited from his acquaintances, induced many attentions which soothed and diverted his melancholy. During the year 1716 the Earl of Burlington sent him into Devonshire; during the next year Mr. Pulteny took him on an excursion to Aix la Chapelle; and in 1718 Lord Harcourt invited him down to his country seat, where the two lovers were killed by lightning, as related by Pope in his letters.

These proofs of kindness were in time extended to acts of substantial benefit, for with the advice of his friends, he published his poems by subscription in 1720, and realised 1000*l.* by the undertaking. How he disposed of this sum does not exactly appear: of those whom he called in to confer with him on the subject, Lewis, who was steward to the Earl of Oxford, advised him to intrust it to the funds, and live upon the interest; Arbuthnot exhorted him to entrust it to Providence, and live upon the principal, and Pope desired him to purchase an annuity. It seems probable that he followed no one of these courses, but invested the major part upon South Sea Stock, in which Mr. Secre-

Digitized by Google

tary Craggs had made him a present during the same year. At least we find him, before a twelvemonth elapsed, calculating that his interest in this gamble would sell for 20,000*l.* and resisting the importunities of his friends, who eagerly counselled him to seize the favourable moment and secure enormous gain. But he was not to be affected by prudential motives: as the price of the stock had risen, he imagined it would still continue to rise, and so prognosticated that he would shortly roll in riches. Nay, so intensely was he bent upon this golden prospect, that he refused to sell out as much as would buy him an annuity of a hundred a year, although reminded by Fenton that he would thus 'make sure of a clean shirt and a shoulder of mutton for life.' How this bubble burst it is needless to describe; but it is distressing to have to mention that Gay fell into such a state of despondency in consequence of it, that his life was despaired of.

Time, however, and the tenderness of his friends, amongst whom Pope was particularly active, brought his mind back to its former state, and being again necessitated to write for a subsistence, he resumed his studies, and produced the 'Captives,' a tragedy, which he read before the Princess of Wales, with all the awkwardness of an author. It was acted at Drury-lane Theatre, and played seven nights, of which the third, commanded by the Princess, was for the author's benefit. His profit from the performance has not been specified. Standing thus well placed for Court favour, he availed himself of some hints to write his Fables for the improvement of the Duke of Cumberland, and as promises of reward for the trouble were held out, again plumed himself with all the exaggerations of an ardent mind. They were published in 1726, and in the very next year the Prince and Princess ascended the throne. Once more did he now imagine the climax of his fortune had supervened, and once more were his hopes deceived. The only appointment he obtained in the multiplied arrangements of the new household was to the place of Gentleman Usher to the Princess Amelia. This, in the first heat of disappointment, he conceived an insult, and sent the Queen word that he was too old for the duties it required of him. Nothing better, however, was offered, though solicitations seem not to have been spared by his friends: according

Digitized by Google

to Dr. Johnson, verses and flattery were alike thrown away for his interest; every thing being heard, and nothing done.

Of the Fables, by which he mainly hoped in this instance to improve his fortune, Dr. Johnson observes that he seems to have always thought favourably himself, for he left a second volume finished at his death. In this respect the public and an author have for once been of the same mind. That these poems are as well written as any thing of the sort in our language, is admitted on all hands; neither can it be denied that, as long as it shall be deemed best for children to be unnaturally instructed by finding birds and beasts talking and acting like mortals, the allegories of Gay may be usefully read; and no one can fail to perceive that the tales of which these fables are in part compounded are really good. The language is sprightly, the versification easy, and the thoughts oftener just and pertinent than might have been expected. The 'Hare with many Friends,' was read with general sympathy, as an expressive detail of the many disappointments to which expectations from the great had subjected the author.

Such was the state in which Gay was again driven to the theatres for a resource, and in no other effort of his life was he so successful. 'The Beggar's Opera,' for the first idea of which he is said to have stood indebted to Swift, was refused at Drury Lane, but acted in Lincoln's Inn Fields, during the season of 1727, for a series of sixty-three nights; and, perhaps, upon no other drama, if we except the works of Shakspeare, has so much criticism passed. Condemned in the closet for its utter violation of all the rules of dramatic propriety, and denounced from the pulpit for a direct excitement to immorality, it has risen superior to all objection, and ranked eminently popular through every fluctuation of taste and fashion. Nor ought any reader to be indignant at the triumph; for, however the classical may disrelish the licenses it takes with all established rules, they must, nevertheless, admit that happy wit and just satire deserve applause, even though the mode or form in which they are delivered may vary from prescribed dogmas; and perhaps the most virtuous may concede, that as we cannot turn into any path of life, or retreat into a corner of the earth without seeing vice advancing, and crimes unpunished, there is even a moral to be drawn from the

Digitized by Google

portraiture, which strips deception of its false colours, and exposes depravity in naked offensiveness. That this was the purpose for which Gay wrote the piece, and that it excites corresponding impressions, it were, if not hypocritical, at least hypercritical to deny. The strongest claim it had upon public favour was the levelling tact with which it laid bare the sins of men in office, but it had gentler charms in the exquisite music which breathed through its scenes. It was the parent of the ballad or comic operas of the English stage.

The profits of the 'Beggar's Opera' amounted to 400*l.* and the author forthwith set to work upon a sequel to it, which he called 'Polly:' but, before the latter was completed, the former was cried up to the honours of a political satire, and the Lord Chamberlain refused his sanction to the performance of a counterpart. From any loss consequent upon this new discomfiture, however, the attention of Gay's friends secured his purse. They came forward with a proposal for printing the opera by subscription, which was so well received that he realised 1200*l.* by the publication. Before dismissing 'Polly,' it is only fair to state, that she deserved no patronage whatever, and would never have reaped honours in her destined sphere. George Colman, the younger, attempted to revive the opera at the Haymarket Theatre, but the audience refused to hear it. The luck, therefore, by which Gay made so much money by a bad piece, may be set off as a balance against the disappointments to which he had been previously subjected. Nor did his prosperity close here: the Duke and Duchess of Queensbury received him into their house, and even condescended to superintend his pecuniary interests. But it was with him as with many others: when his good fortune seemed to be established, his health declined. He relapsed into a depression of spirits, the result of habitual indolence, and a want of mental energy, and died at Queensbury House, in Burlington Gardens, at the age of 45. His funeral was most honourably attended.

A short time previous to his demise, he produced 'Acis and Galatea,' a sonata, which was set to music by Handel, and represented at the Haymarket Theatre. He left behind him 3000*l.* which was divided between his sisters; and three plays

Digitized by Google

in manuscript—'The Distressed Wife,' 'Achilles,' a burlesque opera, acted for eighteen nights at Covent-garden Theatre, and the 'Rehearsal of Goatham,' a farce. The virtues of his disposition are recorded on his epitaph, and have never suffered from detraction. The pretensions of his literary character have also been estimated with unanimity. He possessed moderate, but pleasing talents, was a minor versifier, and in comedy was rather ludicrous than a wit. His poems are incorporated in all the editions of the British Poets, but are seldom read, and never quoted. Two ballads, however, 'All in the Downs,' and ''Twas when the Seas were roaring,' are to be excepted from this *odium:* they are spirited and happy. As for his dramas, with the exception of the 'Beggar's Opera,' they have long been out of print, and off the stage, and, in all probability, will never be republished or revived.

Digitized by Google

EARL OF GODOLPHIN.

In the south aisle of Westminster Abbey, is a good half-body bust by Bird, on a semicircular pedestal, which diminishes under a curtain, and is distinguished by this inscription :—

SIDNEY, Earl of GODOLPHIN,
High Treasurer of Great Brittain,
and Chief Minister during
the first Nine Glorious years
of the reign of Queen Ann
he dyed in the year 1712,
on the 15th day of September, Aged 67,
and was burried near this
place to whose memory this
is offer'd with the utmost
Gratitude Affection and Honour
by his much obliged Daughter
in law,
HENRIETTA GODOLPHIN.

The life of Sidney Godolphin, Earl of Godolphin, was so strictly political, and all that is either interesting or memorable in his conduct is so closely interwoven with the actions of other men and the affairs of the State, that this sketch, to do justice to his character, ought to contain a history of England during the period of his ministerial career. Such a course would obviously swell the bulk of this work far beyond its legitimate purposes: it must therefore suffice to recapitulate merely personal facts. Descended from an ancient Cornish family, and educated at Exeter College, Oxford, he became a member of Parliament, and

Digitized by Google

Groom of the Bedchamber during the reign of Charles II., and made himself conspicuous by supporting the party who would have excluded James II. from the Crown. This obnoxious act, however, did not operate to his prejudice when Charles died, for he was made Secretary of State, and created Baron Rialton in 1684. At the emergent conjuncture when William landed and James fled, he voted for a Regency, but had the influence or address to procure his nomination to the commission of the treasury when William and Mary were declared sovereigns. The reign of Anne wrought the climax of his honours: by her he was made Lord High Treasurer of England, Knight of the Garter, and Earl of Godolphin. In 1710, however, the conflict of state parties obliged him to retire from place, an event which he only survived two years.

In the west walk of the cloisters is a marble tablet to the memory of his brother, who is thus eulogised:—

"Here rest, in hope of a blessed resurrection, CHARLES GODOLPHIN, Esq. brother of the Right Honourable Sidney Earl of Godolphin, Lord High Treasurer of Great Britain, who died July 16, 1720, aged 69, and Mrs. Godolphin, his wife, who died July 29, 1726, aged 63: whose excellent qualities and endowments can never be forgotten, particularly the public-spirited zeal with which he served his country in Parliament, and the indefatigable application, great skill, and nice integrity with which he discharged the trust of a Commissioner of the Customs for many years. Nor was she less eminent for her ingenuity, with sincere love of her friends, and constancy in religious worship. But, as charity and benevolence were the distinguishing parts of their characters, so were they most conspicuously displayed by the last act of their lives; a pious and charitable institution, by him designed and ordered, and by her completed, to the glory of God, and for a bright example to mankind: the endowment whereof is a rent-charge of one hundred and eighty pounds a year, issuing out of lands in Somersetshire, and of which one hundred and sixty pounds a year are to be ever applied, from the 24th of June, 1726, to the educating eight young gentlewomen, who are so born, and whose parents are of the Church of England, whose fortunes do not exceed three hundred pounds, and whose parents or friends will undertake to

Digitized by Google

provide them with decent apparel; and after the death of the said Mrs. Godolphin, and William Godolphin, Esq. her nephew, such as have neither father or mother; which same young gentlewomen are not to be admitted before they are eight years old, nor to be continued after the age of nineteen, and are to be brought up in the city of New Sarum, or some other town in the county of Wilts, under the care of some prudent governess or schoolmistress, a communicant of the Church of England: and the overplus, after an allowance of five pounds a-year for collecting the said rent-charge, is to be applied to binding out one or more poor children apprentices, whose parents are of the Church of England. In perpetual memory whereof, Mrs. Frances Hall, executrix to her aunt, Mrs. Godolphin, has, according to her will, and by order, caused this inscription to be engraven on their monument, 1772."

Digitized by Google

OLIVER GOLDSMITH, B.A. M.B.

HIGH over the south door in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey is an embellished medallion, by Nollekins, with a bust in profile of the author whose name stands prefixed to this sketch. So slight a tribute to his memory is certainly a very inadequate testimony of the variety or the greatness of his talents. The bust, though unpleasing to contemplate, has been praised for the fidelity of its resemblance to the original; and the Latin epitaph,* upon the tablet under it, has been admired as the composition of his friend Dr. Johnson. It may be thus translated:—

The Memory of
OLIVER GOLDSMITH,
Poet, Philosopher, and Historian,
By whom scarcely any style of writing was left untouched
And no one touched unadorned,
Whether to move laughter
Or tears;
A powerful, yet lenient master
Of the affections,

*OLIVARII GOLDSMITH,
Poetæ, Physici, Historici
Qui nullum fere scribendi genus
Non tetigit;
Nullum quod tetigit non ornavit,
Sive Risus essent movendi
Sive Lacrymæ;
Affectuum potens et lenis Dominator;
Ingenio sublimis—vividus, versatilis

Digitized by Google

In genius sublime, vivid, and versatile,
In expression, noble, brilliant, and delicate,
Is cherished in this monument
By the love of his companions,
The fidelity of his friends,
And the admiration of his readers.
Born in the parish of Fernes, in Longford, a county of Ireland,
At a place named Pallas,
On the 29th November, 1731.
He was educated at Dublin,
And died in London,
On the 4th of April, 1774.

To this epitaph several exceptions have been taken, of which, however, only two shall be repeated here:—it has been confidently asserted that Goldsmith was born not in Fernes, or at Pallas, but at Elphin, in the county of Roscommon; and not in the year 1731, but 1728. He was the third son of the Rev. Charles Goldsmith, a clergyman of the Protestant Church, whose labours were piously exercised at Elphin. The common accounts state that young Oliver was first instituted in the classics at a school kept by Mr. Hughes, at Elphin; but the editor of the Biographia Dramatica places the school at Edgeworthstown—the disagreement is not very important. In June, 1744, he was admitted into Trinity College, Dublin, as a sizar, the name by which those students are recognized who receive subsistence as well as instruction upon the foundation. Neither at school, nor at the univer-

Oratione grandis, nitidus, venustus,
Hoc Monumento Memoriam coluit
Sodalium Amor
Amicorum Fides
Lectorum Veneratio.
Natus in Hibernâ Forneiæ Longfordiensis,
In Loco cui nomen Pallas,
Nov. xxix. MDCCXXXI.
Eblanæ Literis institutus,
Obiit Londini
April iv. MDCCLXXIV.

Digitized by Google

sity did he evince any superiority of mind or application above his companions: diffident by nature, his genius lay suppressed from the world, and was perhaps unsuspected by himself. He took his degree of B.A. on the 27th of February, 1749, and then directed his views to the medical profession. After attending some courses of anatomy in the theatre of Dublin College, pursuant t othis choice, he repaired to Edinburgh in 1751, and investigated those other branches of science which are requisite to accomplish the character of a physician.

Goldsmith was the poet of feeling, and in the commonest occurrences of life was always prompt, even to the extremities of improvidence, in realising all those natural sympathies he could so beautifully describe. His own exquisite lines,

> Taught by the power that pities me,
> I learn to pity them,

were the rule of his ordinary actions alike in youth and in age. This sensibility of relief on the one hand, and an insensibility of the value of money on the other, kept him almost invariably distressed, even at those periods when his publications were most frequent, and his resources most considerable. He had never the heart to hear the prayer of distress and refuse to relieve it; and when called on for assistance, as he often was by his poor countrymen, if he had not money, he would give away his clothes, and desire them to turn the only things he could part with into the direct substance of their desires. This beneficence of disposition early involved him in difficulties. A fellow-student prevailing on him to become security for the payment of a tailor's bill, he was soon obliged, in consequence of his inability to keep the engagement, to leave Edinburgh precipitately. But the tailor pursued him in his retreat with the long arm of the law; he was arrested in Sunderland, and conducted back to the college by bailiffs. From this predicament, however, the friendly interposition of Dr. Sleigh, and Laughlin Maclane, Esq. who were then Professors at the Metropolitan University of Scotland, effected his liberation; but, ere long, abandoning the scene of his imprudence and disgrace, he embarked on board a Dutch ship for Rotterdam. This event took place in 1744: his maternal uncle,

Digitized by Google

the Rev. T. Contarine, promised him funds to continue his studies at Leyden, and his situation was comparatively easy until death deprived him of that relation in 1746.

Being thus abandoned to his own impulses, he undertook, to gratify a passion for travelling. Having already passed through the greater part of Flanders, he proceeded to Strasbourg, and thence to Louvaine, where he obtained the degree of Bachelor of Physic. In this latter city he became travelling companion to an English gentleman, whom he accompanied to Geneva, and was then recommended for a tutor to another countryman, a youth who, suddenly elevated from the desk of an attorney's clerk to the possession of independent fortune, the bequest of a pawnbroker his uncle, resolved to enjoy the distinction of seeing the world. With this child of fortune Goldsmith made the tour of Switzerland, and journeyed into the South of France. At Marseilles some disagreement, supposed to have been pecuniary, occurred between the pupil and his instructor, which ended in the receipt by the latter of a small portion of salary, which happened to be due to him, and an immediate separation. Thus again left to himself, and the world at large, the poet made his way slowly and unaided through the heart of France, and finally arrived at Dover in the winter of the year 1758.

This is a brief outline of the scenes he visited, and the course he pursued; but the circumstances under which he travelled are still to be told. At the moment of his embarkation his supplies were exceedingly limited; these soon failed entirely; and what renders the character of the undertaking still more singular, he could not look even to a probability of obtaining money to carry him forward. Twice during the period of his absence he had the fortune to obtain connexions by which his immediate expenses were defrayed, and a moderate profit derived; but they were only of partial duration, and for the rest of the time he was forced to wander in quest of a college where his learning would insure him hospitality, and the chivalrous habits then observed in such institutions entitle him to challenge any member to the disputation of a theses, in which the victor was usually rewarded with a prize of money. In those districts, however, where such establishments were not to be found, he had to seek the shelter of a roof, and the satisfaction of a meal, by a resource

Digitized by Google

as interesting to the imagination as it is painful to more serious consideration. Among the few articles of his travelling stock was a German flute, upon which he was a tolerable performer; so that, when all other means were exhausted, he played the wild melodies of his native isle to the peasantry of France or Flanders, and thus recommended himself to the benevolence of their charity by the melancholy charms of music. Such are the sufferings which the most honourable of ambitions, the thirst of experimental knowledge, will embolden the ingenious mind to undergo; and thus did Goldsmith, destitute in fortune, but enriched with the philosophy of the heart, sustain the utmost toil, with a body indifferent to the exercise of its fatigues, and brave adversity with thoughts superior to the cares of its mortifications.

Arrived in London with only a few pence in his pocket, his mind became filled with apprehensions the most gloomy; for the usages of English life afforded no such reliefs to the shades of distress as those which were formerly peculiar to the continent. He applied to several apothecaries for the humble occupation of a journeyman chemist, but, so rough was his appearance, and so broad his Irish accent, that ridicule and insult were always provoked by appeals which should never have excited any thing but compassion. At length a chemist on Fish-street Hill, touched by his forlorn condition and the simplicity of his manners, received him into his laboratory, and there he continued, until he discovered that his former benefactor, Doctor Sleigh, was in London. To him he repaired without delay, but the Doctor scarcely knew his old pupil;—"Such," according to his own words, "is the tax the unfortunate pay to poverty." When, however, a recognition did take place, his heart was found as warm as ever; and the more fortunate friend, while he remained in London, shared both his purse and his heart with the poet.

From this state of kindred dependance Goldsmith becomingly emancipated himself upon the first opportunity that presented itself. This was an offer of the place of classical assistant in an academy kept by a Reverend Dr. Milner, at Peckham, in Surrey. That such a man gave perfect satisfaction in such a situation, will be taken for granted; but it involved higher things, for while thus engaged he became an author. His first publication, according to some, was 'The Memoirs of a Protestant condemn-

Digitized by Google

ed to the Gallies of France for his Religion. Written by himself. Translated from the original, just published at the Hague, by James Willington.' This performance was printed by Edward Dilly, in 2 vols. 8vo., 1758, and rewarded with a present of twenty guineas. Towards the close of the same year, he was invited from the academy by Griffiths, the bookseller, who engaged to give him board, lodging, and a fixed salary, for conducting the Monthly Review. The terms of this agreement were reduced to writing, but broken by mutual consent, after a trial of seven or eight months. He then hired a room immediately over Breakneck Steps, in Green Arbour Court, Snowhill; finished 'His Enquiry into the Present State of Polite Literature,' published by Dodsley in 1759, and became a liberal contributor to the magazines.

In the Critical Review, the merit he displayed in an article upon some miserable translation of 'Ovid's Fasti,' by a pedantic schoolmaster, attracted the eyes of Smollet, then editor of the British Magazine, who immediately sought him out and secured his co-operation. His contributions to this periodical were afterwards collected together, and published in a separate volume, with the title of 'Essays and Tales.' Newberry, the bookseller in St. Paul's Church Yard, was the last to hire his abilities, by giving him 100*l.* a year to write in the Public Ledger. The Chinese Letters, afterwards printed by themselves, and called the 'Citizen of the World,' were the fruit of this compact. He also started, in 1749, a weekly paper, called the 'Bee,' but it proceeded no farther than the eighth number.

Being thus enabled to better the respectability of his address, by removing his lodgings into Wine Office Court, Fleet-street, he put the finishing touches to the 'Traveller,' and 'Vicar of Wakefield;' yet such was his diffidence, that he kept them by him until the pressure of debt compelled him to resort to the friendly aid of Dr. Johnson, who exerted himself with equal honour and success, to procure their publication. Accordingly, the poem was sent from the press in 1765, and the novel in 1766: and it is cheering to add, that as the beauty of both compositions was extraordinary, so their reception was most flattering. The 'Traveller' is a poem which delights by a refinement of imagery, and a happiness of expression, such as few authors have attained,

Digitized by Google

and not one surpassed. Upon the melody of its versification it has been very properly observed, that Pope had no competitor in that attribute of excellence, until Goldsmith appeared. Perhaps there is no similar production in our language which philosophizes so charmingly; and certainly, for correctness, Pope must yield the palm of superiority to Goldsmith. Nor is there less to be said of the 'Vicar of Wakefield,' a tale which has not been exceeded in chastity of diction, a natural interest of plot, or the delicate variety with which humour and sentiment are combined. It teaches the purest lessons of morality with a simplicity that enchants while it instructs; and exhibits the duties and foibles of life with a fidelity the least artificial or affected.

These two labours established his fame, and his finances prospered with rapidity. Becoming a member of the Literary Club, he added to the advantages of an intimacy with Drs. Johnson and Percy, the reputation of an acquaintance with Lord Nugent, Burke, Sir Joshua Reynolds, &c. &c., and was employed upon several profitable works. Distinguishing what he wrote principally for gain, a 'Life of Nash,' and 'Selections of English Poetry,' were produced during the summer of 1763, while lodging at Canonbury House, Islington. Of the latter performance he was particularly vain, for he used to remark, that above all his other publications it showed the strength and propriety of a judgment, to the cultivation of which he had devoted twenty years. A 'History of England, in a Series of Letters from a Nobleman to his Son,' followed, in 2 vols. 8vo., and was so much distinguished for elegance and liberality as to be generally ascribed to Lord Lyttleton. A 'History of Rome,' 2 vols. 8vo. came out in 1769, a 'History of England,' 2 vols. 8vo. in 1771, for which Davies the bookseller gave 500*l.*; 'Parnell's Poems and Life' in 1773, and a 'History of Greece,' 2 vols. 8vo. concluded the catalogue, 1774. Of these, one and all, it may be observed briefly, that expressed with neatness, and condensed with propriety, they fully answered the purposes for which they were designed, and remain to this day decidedly popular. Requiring but little time, less reflection, and being well paid for, they were written peculiarly *con amore;* for this was the sort of work the author most liked to be employed upon.

Goldsmith's dramatic compositions are now to be reviewed:

Digitized by Google

they began with the comedy of the 'Good-natured Man,' acted at the theatre in Covent-garden, on the 29th of January, 1768. Though confessedly imbued with many strong marks of genius, and very keen strokes of wit, this play was not at first by any means so successful as might have been expected. Some curtailments, however, were made, and it was soon secured in a fixed place of high rank on the English stage. The popularity of its early attractions may be judged from the fact, that his profits from the third representation and copy-right amounted to no less a sum than 500*l*. But the satisfaction caused by this union of wealth and increased reputation was considerably lessened by the unwarrantable severities with which the composition was criticised in some of the public prints. A passion raged at that time in favour of sentimental comedies, of which Kelly had just then finished a specimen, entitled 'False Delicacy,' which was introduced by Garrick on the boards of Drury Lane, and received with a run of patronage which far eclipsed the fortune of Goldsmith's piece. The most invidious comparisons were instituted between the two comedies, and the most rigid strictures passed upon the 'Good-natured Man' by some writers, who could only affect a miserable character in letters, by striving to abuse the excellencies of a production which it was far beyond their powers to rival. Goldsmith felt this injustice with a depth of mortification he could ill conceal; and to such an extreme were these differences urged, that from intimate friends he and Kelly became the most averted enemies.

From a sense of such ignoble grievances, however, he soon roused his spirits. From an attic in the library staircase of the Inner Temple, he descended to an elegantly furnished first-floor in Brick-court, Middle Temple, and aspired to habits of ease and dignity. In 1770 he gave the world his 'Deserted Village,' a most polished composition, which had occupied his constant study for two years. The bookseller gave a note for a hundred guineas for the copy, which Goldsmith modestly returned, explaining to a friend, that the sum was more than the honest man could afford to give, or any modern poetry was worth. He made his own estimate, and would only receive at the rate of five shillings the couplet. But the sale was so rapid that in a short time the bookseller was enabled to show how well he could afford

Digitized by Google

to pay the hundred guineas: the original offer was therefore fulfilled. The 'Deserted Village' was inscribed to Sir Joshua Reynolds; and if there is to be any qualification in our tribute of praise, it can only be that there is an evident resemblance between it and the 'Traveller.' The conception of the 'Traveller' is more noble, and the ideas in it more philosophical and enlarged; and yet the incidents and descriptions of the 'Deserted Village' are better liked, and oftener quoted: its simplicity is more pastoral, and its truths more familiarly natural.

Increased reputation, and even greater wealth, were still in store for Goldsmith, and most fruitfully did he earn his harvest of both the one and the other, when in 1772 he produced his comedy of 'She Stoops to Conquer,' at Covent Garden Theatre. Strange to say, the only question of the success of this matchless piece was entertained before its representation, and that by the theatrical critics of the house, and even the actors themselves. By these different persons, 'She Stoops to Conquer' was adjudged more a farce than a comedy, and as such predestined to damnation; but the result proved the vanity of criticism, and Goldsmith exulted in the applause which followed. His receipts were considerable, exceeding, with the price of the copyright, 800*l.*; yet such was the profusion of his liberality to indigent authors, particularly to those from his own country, that he found himself, before that very same year reached a period, involved in all the perplexities of debt, and enveloped in the deepest gloom of despondency and regret.

But though Goldsmith was indiscreet, he was also industrious: he now undertook to produce for the booksellers 'A History of the Earth and Animated Nature.' Such a compilation was certainly not the one best adapted to the nature of his studies; yet he exhibited throughout every page the versatility of his powers; and if he failed in teaching, he succeeded in entertaining. The learned in science have never expressed a favourable opinion of it, and perhaps a summary of all the merit it can pretend to may be thus briefly made:—it redounded, if not to the reputation, at least to the emolument of the author, and that was more than one half of his object; while it answered the end of the publisher in selling well. The facility with which he made his money by these compilations induced him to project another work

Digitized by Google

of a similar nature, which he meant to call a 'Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences.' He issued a prospectus of it, but the booksellers did not approve of the plan, and the idea expired in embryo.

The close of a chequered life now drew near. He had for many years been affected by strangury, which increased upon him in violence and pain, as the repentant agitation of his mind was provoked by the embarrassment of his affairs. To such a pitch was the disorder thus aggravated, that he fell into a nervous fever, which affected him so poignantly, that he broke out into evident signs of remorse, and declared his disgust of life. In this state he consulted an old friend, Mr. Hawes, the apothecary, and expressed an eager desire to try James's fever powders. The visitor opposed the idea most urgently; and, when he found himself unlikely to prevail, begged that he would at least call in a physician. The request was complied with, and Mr. Hawes' opinion strongly confirmed by Dr. Fordyce; but, deaf to all entreaty and advice, Goldsmith persisted in his resolution. He took the medicine and died. Every attention was paid to him in his last moments, but no art could counteract the effects of his own obstinacy. An interment in Westminster Abbey, suitable to the reputation of the author, and the character of his friends, was projected, but hastily abandoned as soon as it was declared that he died in debt. It were well if the same moral principle were enforced upon all similar occasions. Goldsmith was meanly buried in the Temple church-yard, in the presence of a few private friends.

Oliver Goldsmith is an author justly entitled to the highest meed of praise. Whether in prose or poetry, he is equally excellent; and no better example of a pure style of English idiom and classical composition can be desired than the one furnished by his pages. With the gentlest heart himself, he never had any desire but to please; he walks in one path, and as that is always flowery, he never seeks to astonish by unprecedented efforts, or to terrify by unusual dangers. Perhaps no writer was ever more felicitous in the measure of his art; for he abounds in wit and humour, without ever verging on the asperities of satire; and is indefatigable in detecting faults, and exposing vice, without colouring crime. This is the mastery of art; for it not unfrequently happens that a glowing description of the delusive snares by which the wicked

Digitized by Google

are led into their excesses, induces others to tamper with dangerous pleasures, from a vain idea that the extremities of evil are, notwithstanding, far removed. It is needless to expatiate upon the many examples which prove that those extremities are often reached before their propinquity is even suspected. Such was the variety of his powers, and such the felicity of his performances, that he always seemed to excel in whatever he last attempted; and thus the generality of readers may be always allowed to doubt whether in poetry he rivalled the correct melody of Pope's numbers, more than in prose he emulated the elegant simplicity of Addison. But if a choice were of necessity to be made, perhaps the world would be best pleased to possess poetry rather than prose, even from the author of the 'Vicar of Wakefield.'

Digitized by Google

RIGHT HON. HENRY GRATTAN, M.P.

THE life of Henry Grattan reveals the true history of a patriot;—a simple statement, which includes the highest merits and the greatest praise, supersedes the ordinary forms of panegyric, and the arts of ornament and interest, and leaves the mere language of eulogy inexpressive. The worth of such a man is best discerned in the recital of his actions. Born in Dublin during the year 1751, he completed his education in the University of his native city, where he was early distinguished as the classical rival of Mr. Fitzgibbon, afterwards Earl of Clare, and Mr. Foster, the last Speaker of the Irish House of Commons. His father was a barrister enjoying the place of Recorder to the Corporation of Dublin, and a competent practice at the bar, the just rewards of talent and integrity. To the same profession young Grattan was also destined: accordingly, after entering his name at the King's Inn of Court, in Dublin, he proceeded to London, and kept his terms in the Temple. While thus occupied, he formed intimate acquaintances with Hugh Boyd and Mr. Eden, afterwards Lord Auckland,—facts which are only mentioned here, because the letters of Junius were at one time attributed to this trio.

Being called to the Irish bar in 1772, he walked the hall of the four Courts in Dublin, with an empty bag, for some three or four years, and then gave up every regard towards a profession in which the most liberal minds are not generally the most likely to acquire the highest reputation. To this resolution the death of his father, who left him a competent fortune, in all probability materially contributed. About the same time, he was introduced to the late Earl of Charlemont, and by his influence was returned to the Irish House of Commons in 1775, for the borough from

Digitized by Google

which that admirable nobleman assumed his title. In this capacity, the first of Grattan's speeches, that has been preserved, was delivered upon a motion made by the late Marquis of Londonderry, then Mr. Robert Stuart, relative to the public expenditure. It is in every respect a favourable earnest of his future fame.

In this place a short statement descriptive of the condition of Ireland at or about this conjuncture, (that country so proverbially notorious for persecution, want, and misery) seems absolutely necessary to a just comprehension of the mighty career for which Grattan now disciplined his spirit. The following, then, were the wrongs more loudly complained of:—The Irish Parliament, which had been established a distinct and independent authority by Henry IV. and Henry VI., was virtually ineffectual and inoperative; for an act of George the I. had subjected the people of Ireland to laws made in the English Parliament, whether those laws were or were not submitted to, or confirmed by, their own legislature. The staple trade of the country consisted of woollen and linen manufactures and provisions. Of these the woollen manufacture was totally prohibited; that of linen was loaded with enormous duties, and confined to internal consumption; and provisions—butter, bacon, cattle, &c. were shut in from the foreign market. No Irish merchant could trade to the Indies, or export or import goods in any but an English vessel. These restrictions affected every man in the country, and it is impossible to conceive measures more vexatiously calculated to exhaust the resources of the island, or beggar its population. But the Catholics, who at that and every other time constituted the great majority of the inhabitants, groaned under a penal law far more cruel. In truth, it is difficult to read of a state of things so outrageously tyrannical, and conceive that in the eighteenth century Great Britain could have been so immeasurably disgraced. No Catholic was allowed to marry a Protestant; if he sent his child to a foreign seminary, he forfeited his estates, while, to prevent the education of the offspring in the faith of its parent at home, it was declared a felony for any Catholic to teach a school. Should the child turn a Protestant, he was permitted to wrest away the father's property unless he also apostatized. No Catholic could purchase land in fee-simple, or hold a lease for more than thirty years, or lend

Digitized by Google

money on mortgage, or even buy an annuity. Should he die intestate, the next of kin, who was a Protestant, became his heir at law, to the exclusion of his own wife, son, daughter, brother, sister, &c. &c.: and reversely when a Protestant died intestate, all the Catholic relations, to the tenth generation, were incapacitated from inheritance. Catholics were debarred from every civil office and privilege of honour or emolument, from the shrievalty of a county, and a seat on a jury, down to a petty constableship, or a vote at a vestry, or the election of a member of parliament.

Such was the enervation of his country, and such the grievances of his countrymen, when, on the 19th of April, 1780, Henry Grattan first came forward in the Irish House of Commons, with a declaration of rights. The speech in which he pressed this motion has been considered the best he ever pronounced. Rapid and animated, keen and argumentative, it is at the same time grand and simple, admirable in conception, and complete in execution. But an extract will afford a better idea of its style, than any critical analysis can give.

"If I had lived when the 9th of William took away the woollen manufacture, or when the 6th of George I. declared this country to be dependant, and subject to laws to be enacted by the Parliament of England, I should have made a covenant with my own conscience to seize the first moment of rescuing my country from the ignominy of such acts of power; or, if I had a son, I should have administered to him an oath, that he would consider himself as a person separate and set apart for the discharge of so important a duty. Upon the same principle am I now come to move a declaration of right, the first moment occurring since my time, in which such a declaration could be made, with any chance of success, or without aggravation of oppression."

* * * *

"See her military ardour (*Ireland's*), expressed not only in forty thousand men (*the volunteers*), conducted by instinct as they were raised by inspiration, but manifested in the zeal and promptitude of every young member of the growing community.

Digitized by Google

Let corruption tremble; let the enemy, foreign and domestic, tremble; but let the friends of liberty rejoice at these means of safety, and this hour of redemption. Yes; there does exist an enlightened sense of rights, a young appetite for freedom, a solid strength, and a rapid fire, which not only put a declaration of right within your power, but put it out of your power to decline one. Eighteen counties are at your bar; they stand there with the compact of Henry, with the charter of John, and with all the passions of the people. 'Our lives are at your service, but our liberties, we received them from God; we will not resign them to man.' Speaking to you thus, if you repulse these petitioners, you abdicate the privileges of Parliament, forfeit the rights of the kingdom, repudiate the instructions of your constituents, bilge the sense of your country, palsy the enthusiasm of the people, and reject that good, which—not a Lord North, not a Lord Buckinghamshire, not a Lord Hillsborough, but a certain providential conjuncture, or, rather, the hand of God seems to extend to you. Nor are we only prompted to this when we consider our strength; we are challenged to it when we look to Great Britain. The people of that country are now waiting to hear the Parliament of Ireland speak on the subject of their liberty. It begins to be made a question in England whether the principal persons *wish* to be free. It was the delicacy of former Parliaments to be silent on the subject of commercial restrictions, and to show a knowledge of the fact, and not a sense of the violation. You have spoken out; you have shown a knowledge of the fact, but not a sense of the violation. On the contrary, you have returned thanks for a partial repeal made on a principle of power: you have returned thanks as for a favour; and your exultation has brought your charters as well as your spirit into question, and tends to shake to her foundation your title to liberty. Thus you do not leave your rights even where you found them. You have done too much not to do more; you have gone too far not to go on; you have brought yourselves into that situation in which you must silently abdicate the rights of your country, or publicly restore them. It is very true, you may feed your manufacturers, and landlords may get their rents; or you may export woollens, and load a vessel with baize, serges, and kerseys; and you may bring back again, directly from the

Digitized by Google

plantations, sugar, indigo, speckle-wood, beetle-root, and panellas. But liberty, the foundation of trade, the charters of the land, the independency of parliament, the securing, crowning, consummation of every thing, are yet to come. Without them, the work is imperfect, the foundation is wanting, the capital is wanting, trade is not free, Ireland is a colony without the benefit of a charter, and you are a synod without the privileges of a Parliament."

* * * *

"Sir, we may hope to dazzle with illuminations, and we may sicken with addresses; but the public imagination will never rest, nor will her heart be at ease—never! so long as the Parliament of England exercises or claims a legislation over this country: so long as this shall be the case, that very free trade, otherwise a perpetual attachment, will be a cause of new discontent. It will create a pride to feel the indignity of bondage; it will furnish a strength to bite your chain; and the liberty withheld will poison the good communicated.

"The British minister mistakes the Irish character. Had he intended to make Ireland a slave, he should have kept her a beggar. There is no middle policy: win her heart by the restoration of her right, or cut off the nation's right hand; greatly emancipate, or fundamentally destroy. We may talk plausibly to England; but so long as she exercises a power to bind this country, so long are the nations in a state of war. The claims of the one is against the liberty of the other, and the sentiments of the latter go to oppose those claims to the last drop of her blood. The English opposition are therefore right; mere trade will not satisfy Ireland. They judge of us by other great nations, by the nation whose political life has been a struggle for liberty: they judge of us with a true knowledge and just deference for our character—that a country, enlightened as Ireland, chartered as Ireland, armed as Ireland, and injured as Ireland, will be satisfied with nothing less than liberty."

To proceed were easy and delightful—the oration is throughout magnificent in the highest degree; but more than is proportioned

Digitized by Google

to these contracted limits has been introduced; and it must now be told that, notwithstanding all its excellencies, the proposition was rejected by a large majority. Still the spirit of the cause waxed nobly; the volunteers encreasing their numbers, rose in influence, and stood forth that body most formidable to an arbitrary minister—a band of determined patriots constitutionally organised. Grattan resumed the motion in February, 1782, with a speech less ornamental than the one just noticed, but more learned and equally forcible. He was again defeated; but, in the month of April following, the Irish Parliament re-assembled under a new administration, and it was at length amicably conceded *that the King, Lords, and Commons of Ireland only, could make laws to bind Ireland in any case whatsoever*. A repeal of the act of George the I. by which the obnoxious license was first established, took place as a matter of course, and several important measures followed.

The exultation of the Irish people over this political victory was boundless, and the adoration with which they looked up to Grattan supreme. He was reverenced like a man inspired; and in truth, such has been the degeneracy of our nature, that to see a private individual—unsupported by any power but that of genius, any force but that of right, and any influence but that of truth—uplift his country from impoverished thraldom to flourishing independence, does seem an achievement somewhat superior to the mere exercise of mortality. Such conduct was beyond example signal, and the generous feelings with which it was acknowledged were immeasurably great.

The parliament fully sympathised with the people, and it was proposed in the ardour of admiration and gratitude that a sum of 100,000*l.* should be voted to Mr. Grattan as a proof of the national approbation. His personal friends, however, thought a present to such an amount excessive; and the grant, after having been reduced in consequence of their suggestions to 50,000*l.* was unanimously confirmed, and very properly received. With this fortune he purchased an estate in the county of Wicklow, laid out a seat at Tynnahinch, and thenceforward possessed an ease and dignity as happily enjoyed as they were brightly earned.

But nothing is more problematical than the satisfaction of a

Digitized by Google

whole population, conscious of strength, and elated by success. The Irish were soon dissatisfied with the measure of their acquisitions, and a party was formed to urge the independence of the legislature, to a still greater height. According to them, the simple repeal of the act which gave Great Britain the power to make laws for Ireland conveyed no renunciation of the right to do so, and might be resumed:—where then, it was asked, would their independence be? Thus it was proposed to demand of the British Parliament, a full and explicit renunciation of all claim in future to bind Ireland by laws unconfirmed by the Irish Parliament. Mr. Flood, an orator, who, notwithstanding some tergiversation, is admitted to have deserved well of his country, headed this party, and Mr. Grattan sagaciously opposed its views. The main points pressed by him were, that the repeal of a mere declaratory law must be interpreted as a renunciation of the right to have passed it; and even if it were not so, and Great Britain should become so unjust and impolitic as to attempt to resume it, a mere renunciation of the right would avail little to divert her from the purpose. The only security for the Irish people, as he contended, in such a predicament would be, not an act of Parliament, but that patriotic energy which had already obtained their emancipation. Several passionate altercations ensued between Flood and Grattan, in the course of which the latter pronounced that philippic which has been so often quoted as a finished specimen of oratorical irony and personal satire. The following passage will supply the reader with a good idea of Grattan's strength in such attacks:—

"Thus defective in every relationship, whether to constitution, commerce, and toleration, I will suppose this man to have added much private improbity to public crimes; that his probity was like his patriotism, and his honour on a level with his oath. He loves to deliver panegyrics on himself. I will interrupt him and say, 'Sir, you are mistaken if you think that your talents are as great as your life has been reprehensible. You began your parliamentary career with an acrimony and personality which could have been justified only by a supposition of virtue. After a rank and clamorous opposition, you became on a sudden silent; you were silent for seven years; you were silent on the greatest ques-

Digitized by Google

tions, and you were silent for money! In 1773, while a negociation was pending to sell your talents and your turbulence, you absconded from your duty in Parliament; you forsook your law of Poynings; you forsook the question of economy, and abandoned all the old themes of your former declamation. You were not at that period to be found in the House; you were seen like a guilty spirit haunting the lobby of the House of Commons, watching the moment in which the question should be put, that you might vanish; you were descried, with a criminal anxiety, retiring from the scenes of your past glory; or you were perceived coasting the upper benches of this House, like a bird of prey, with an evil aspect and a sepulchral note, meditating to pounce upon its quarry. These ways—they were not the ways of honour—you practised pending a negociation which was to end either in your sale or your sedition; and the former taking place, you supported the rankest measures that ever came before Parliament—the embargo of 1776 for instance. 'Oh fatal embargo! that breach of law and ruin of commerce!' You supported the unparalleled profusion and jobbing of Lord Harcourt's scandalous ministry; the address to support the American war; the other address to send 4000 men, which you had yourself declared to be necessary to the defence of Ireland, to fight against the liberties of America, to which you had declared yourself a friend. You, Sir, who delight to utter execrations against the American commissioners of 1778, on account of their hostility to America, —you, Sir, who manufacture stage-thunder against Mr. Eden for his anti-American principles,—you, Sir, whom it pleases to chant a hymn to the immortal Hampden;—you, Sir, approved of the tyranny exercised against America,—and you, Sir, voted 4000 Irish troops to cut the throats of the Americans fighting for their freedom, fighting for your freedom, fighting for the great principle—*liberty*. But you found at last (and this should be an eternal lesson to men of your craft and cunning), that the King had only dishonoured you; the Court bought, but would not trust you; and, having voted for the worst measures, you remained for seven years the creature of *salary*, without the confidence of Government. Mortified by the discovery, and stung with disappointment, you betake yourself to the sad expedients of duplicity; you try the sorry game of a trimmer in your progress

Digitized by Google

to the arts of an incendiary; you give no honest support either to the Government or the people;—you, at the most critical part of their existence, take no part; you sign no non-consumption agreement; you are no volunteer; you oppose no perpetual mutiny bill, no altered sugar bill; you declare that you lament that the declaration of right should be brought forward; and, observing with regard to prince and people, the most impartial treachery and desertion, you justify the suspicion of your sovereign, by betraying the Government as you had sold the people; until at last, by this hollow conduct, and for some other steps, the result of mortified ambition, being dismissed and another person put in your place, you fly to the ranks of the volunteers and canvass for mutiny; you announce that the country was ruined by other men during that period in which she had been sold by you. Your logic is, that the repeal of a declaratory law is not the repeal of a law at all; and the effect of that logic is, an English act affecting to emancipate Ireland, by exercising over her the legislative authority of the British Parliament. Such has been your conduct, and at such conduct every order of your fellow-subjects has a right to exclaim. The merchant may say to you—the constitutionalist may say to you—the American may say to you—and I, I now say to you, and say to your beard, Sir,—you are not an honest man.'

Bitter as this invective was, it did not avail to stem the pertinacity of Mr. Flood's opposition; the people too were dissatisfied with its tone, and finding himself thus embarrassed in the completion of his great projects, he abstained from political controversy in disgust. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to state, that Mr. Flood's party never succeeded in their object. Grattan, however, still retained his seat, and was soon provoked to activity. In 1785, a commercial arrangement between England and Ireland was brought forward, through which the ministers aimed an insidious blow at the newly acquired independence of the latter country. It was proposed that the "Parliament of Ireland, in consideration of being admitted to participate equally with Great Britain in all commercial advantages, should, from time to time, *adopt* and *enact* all such acts of the British Parliament as should relate to the regulation or management of her commerce, &c." To this measure Grattan offered the most strenuous and enlightened

Digitized by Google

resistance:—he successfully contended that such a proposition would degrade the Parliament of Ireland into a mere register to the British legislature, and the Government was forced to abandon the design.

These masterly exertions fully reinstated him in the confidence of the people, and taking the lead of the country party in the House of Commons, he also headed the Irish Whigs. Proceeding on to those questions which were strictly his own, we find him next engaged in an endeavour to calm those disturbances which have immemorially taken place in Ireland, in consequence of the aversion with which the Catholic population paid tythes to the Protestant Clergy. The plan was rejected—an ill merited fate, which also befell a bill he introduced with the view of promoting the cultivation of waste land, by exempting it from tythes for seven years after the time it should be first reclaimed.

In 1790, a general election took place, and he was returned to the new Parliament with ease and celebrity for the city of Dublin. But he soon lost all favour with his constituents: for beginning his labours in the great work of Catholic Emancipation, he now proposed to admit the members of that religion to the elective franchise; and an outcry, the most infamous and astounding, was raised against him by every bigot and placeman in the island. How little a man of his sense and spirit was affected by this treatment may be easily conceived; conscious of his own integrity, and convinced of the impolicy of enforcing political disqualifications on the mere score of religious differences, he proceeded steadily in his object, and succeeded—gradually and partially, it is true, in restoring the majority of his countrymen to many violated rights. Hopes were at first entertained that the whole question would be granted; a French war occurring, the greatest troubles prevailed not only in England but in Ireland, and the British Cabinet was reduced to an extremity. Appearances of conciliation were therefore assumed; the Earl of Fitzwilliam was invested with the Vice-royalty of Ireland, and a general understanding prevailed, that his Lordship was instructed to appease the discontents of the country by conceding the Catholic Claims. But no sooner was a supply voted, than the liberal Viceroy was recalled to England, and with his presence every prospect of improvement vanished. The most violent

Digitized by Google

passions were excited by this treatment, and Grattan feeling it vain to oppose the corrupt policy of the Government, seceded from Parliament, and lived awhile in retirement.

Events, however, of the most vital importance arose. Mr. Pitt proposed the Union between Ireland and England, and Mr. Grattan was sent back to the House of Commons as member for Wicklow to head the able body of men who opposed it. That opposition was vigorous, pathetic, and brilliant beyond example, but utterly vain. In the year 1800, the Irish Houses of Commons and Peers merged into the Parliament of England.

At first Grattan refused to accept a seat in the new legislature; but the entreaties of the Catholics, and his political associates, induced him to become a member for the borough of Malton, in Yorkshire, during the year 1805. A summary of his public life from this date may be briefly made. Maintaining his superior character and influence undiminished, he was again elected member for Dublin, and continued to advocate every motion, whether for retrenchment in the revenue, or reform in the Parliament. He concurred in the propriety of our wars with France, but made the Catholic Question the main labour and chief glory of his career. Undeterred by a relentless opposition, and not discouraged by repeated defeats, he carried it with greater splendour to higher majorities in the House of Commons than it had before received or has since attained, and delivered the most powerful speeches by which it has ever been recommended. Whenever the final concession of those great claims shall take place, to him, above all others, shall the country owe a weighty debt of gratitude never to be diminished or forgotten. For that question alone, he seemed to live, and for it he in a manner died. Early in 1820, when he had advanced to his 70th year, and declining health almost entirely incapacitated him from exertion, he took the petition of the Irish Catholics, and crossing the Channel to Liverpool, proceeded up to London by the canal, with a resolution of again submitting the cause to the legislature. But he had scarcely concluded the journey to Town, when his strength was exhausted—he died on the 14th of May. It was at first determined to convey his remains back to Ireland, and deposit them amongst the people whom he had so nobly served; but the most distinguished members of the legislature prevailed upon his family to permit his interment

Digitized by Google

in Westminster Abbey. He was accordingly buried in the south cross aisle, where a plain stone, inscribed "HENRY GRATTAN, JUNE 14, 1820," marks the site of his grave.

Mr. Grattan married early in life, a lady named Fitzgerald, by whom he had thirteen children. This notice presents a most inadequate outline of his life, but even from the statements thus presented, it is evident that he flourished without an equal. Never courting power or office, he stood superior to pensions, places, and peerages, and accepted but one honour, a seat in the Irish Privy Council, during the Vice-royalty of Lord Fitzwilliam. He vindicated the liberties of his country, and was the only man who ever carried such an achievement not by arms and bloodshed, but by pure wisdom and eloquence. As there was nothing temporising or dubious in his politics, so his memory is stained by no tergiversation. Grattan was always consistent—a special distinction acquired by no second statesman. "The purity of his life," as Sir James Macintosh observed, "was the brightness of his glory." In oratory his style was peculiarly original, and may principally be distinguished for concentrated argumentation and didactic energy. Delighting in brevity, he abounds with antithesis and epigram; of irony and satire he had a far greater command than any of his contemporaries; but possessing a taste highly cultivated, and most discriminative judgment, he never diverged in figurative radiancy, or sacrificed elegance to passion. His speeches have been edited by his second son, the present Member for Dublin. To this character it can only be added, that in private life he was a warm friend and a determined enemy, and in his familiar moments was remarkable for that simplicity which so greatly endears genius.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

LONDON.

Published by John Williams 44 Paternoster Row. July. 1827.

Digitized by Google

THOMAS GRAY.

UNDERNEATH the monument of Milton, in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey, is placed a large marble tablet, executed in honour of Gray, by Bacon, R. A. It represents the Lyric Muse, in high relief, holding a medallion of the poet. The allocation is low and unfavourable, and seems to have been meanly chosen to illustrate the epitaph; while neither the design nor the performance is in any degree as happy as some others by the same hand. The lines inscribed are these—

No more the Grecian Muse unrivall'd reigns:
To Britain let the nations homage pay;
She felt a Homer's fire in Milton's strains,
A Pindar's rapture in the lyre of Gray.

Thomas Gray was the son of a money-scrivener on Cornhill, where he was born on the 26th day of November, 1716. His mother's brother, named Antrobus, was an assistant to the head-master at Eton,—a circumstance which facilitated the young poet's entrance to that school at a proper age. In 1734 he became a pensioner at Peterhouse College, Cambridge, and there gave early proofs of a superior taste and proficiency in letters. With the mode of life and system of study, however, at this university, he always declared himself dissatisfied. His fellow-students, on account of the delicacy of his complexion and manners, used to call him Miss Gray. He took no degree, but came back to London in 1738, and inscribed his name as a student-at-law of the Inner Temple.

Digitized by Google

The friendship of Horace Walpole, afterwards Earl of Orford, which he had originally cultivated at Eton, diverted him from persevering in this view, by proposing a tour on the Continent. It was gladly accepted, and they accordingly wandered together over France and Italy. At Florence, however, some disagreement arose, and they suddenly parted in displeasure. Of this quarrel the cause has never been assigned, and nothing more is known than that Walpole afterwards confessed the fault of it lay on his side. Gray remained abroad for some time longer, travelling with such privacy as became his little fortune, while his late companion extended his route with all the facility and pomp of ample fortune.

There is perhaps no life to be mentioned which affords so decided a proof of the barrenness of literary biography as does the life of Gray. One sentence would be almost comprehensive enough to contain the few changes and events which occurred during the rest of his life:—he dwelt in London, in Cambridge, and made two excursions to the North of England; and one epithet would suffice to characterise it—it was studious; while another sentence would be long enough for the enumeration of his writings —eleven odes, one elegy, and a hundred or two miscellaneous couplets;—and another epithet would answer to describe them —they are beautiful. But such brevity would make the biographer appear fastidious and his subject inconsiderable: to be just we must be more particular. Upon his return from the Continent in 1741, he buried his father, and found the independence left him much smaller than he expected it would have been. Disappointed in one respect, he resolved not to expose himself to similar chagrin in the uncertainties of a professional life, and therefore, abandoning the law, retired to Cambridge. There he took the degree of Bachelor of Civil Law, and devoted himself, with the exception of a long visit to London, to mental improvement and mental enjoyment for the remainder of his days.

In the year 1742, he seems to have turned his thoughts most seriously to poetry, for during the course of it he wrote his ode to Spring, which was followed by those on the Prospect of Eton, and To Adversity. He went through an extensive course

Digitized by Google

of classical reading, was fruitful in plans, but utterly deficient in the perseverance or energy required to fulfil them.

The next occurrence amidst the placid flow of his time which awakened any particular interest in the bosom of Gray, or led to any excitement, was the arrival of Mason the poet at Cambridge. From acquaintances they soon became intimates, and this friendship procured us the first good edition of our author's works, and the most interesting account of his mind and studies that we possess. Mason admired Gray, with an earnestness such as one man of talents has seldom felt for another; and loved him with a fidelity, such as a rival has but rarely proved. In this retirement Gray continued studying most deeply, for no other end than his own satisfaction; and enlarging his views, for no other object than the pleasure he derived from the expansion. In 1747 he meditated a poem on 'Government and Education,' began it, but had not the ambition to finish it—a fact which has been often deservedly regretted, as, from the many excellent lines in the fragments we have of it, there can be little doubt but that it would have been as valuable as the subject is important. In 1750 he completed his far-famed Elegy in a Country Church-yard, which, after being surreptitiously printed in a Magazine, was formally published by Dodsley, and immediately was the author courted as a poet of the very finest feeling and capacity. There was no voice raised against his popularity; for then, as ever since, the elegy found a mirror for every image it presented, and an echo for every sentiment it revealed in the heart of each reader. This is the admission of, to him, the inveterate Dr. Johnson, from whom we also gather, that it presents a succession of thoughts so natural, and expressions so congenial, that, though strictly original in themselves, we fancy they have been familiar to us from infancy. Now this is the highest attainment of art and genius, and there remains nothing more for the critic than to amplify praises, where it were vanity to blame.

In 1753, Dodsley, the bookseller, collected his fugitive pieces together, and published them with plates, by Bentley; but so scanty were the contents, that, in order to swell out a book, he was obliged to print only on one side of every page. Nevertheless, the public appears not to have been discontented either with

Digitized by Google

the poetry or the engraving, for the impression was bought up with great avidity. In 1757, he again came forward with a frugal offering to his admirers by editing his odes, entitled, 'The 'Progress of Poetry' and 'The Bard.' They were read with great surprize, but not with such undivided feelings of pleasure as characterised the reception of the elegy. Some who pretended not to understand the loftiness with which they were imagined, were vain enough to think their success could be marred by ridicule, and two burlesque imitations by Lloyd and Colman were published under the heads of Odes on 'Oblivion' and 'Obscurity.' But the opposition, though clamorous for a while, was vain in the end; and the mock heroics were soon neglected in the obscurity, and forgotten in the oblivion, which they aspired to celebrate.

Gray was now on the heights of celebrity. Taking up his residence for three years near the British Museum, he employed himself in reading and transcribing the rich lore of that most valuable establishment. While thus engaged, Cibber, the Poet Laureate, died, and he had the honour of refusing to fill up the vacancy. He returned to Cambridge and settled himself at Pembroke Hall; but his constitution, naturally weak, was so shattered by confinement, that a change of place and variety of exercise were strongly recommended: he therefore undertook a journey into Scotland during the summer of 1765. There he met with Dr. Beattie, one modest like himself, as well as a poet, and a correct scholar: men so similar, naturally became friends. The University of Aberdeen offered him the degree of Doctor of Laws, but as he had formerly declined that honour at Cambridge, so he thought himself obliged to refuse it here.

Returning once more to Cambridge, he was appointed Professor of History, by the Duke of Grafton. As this was a situation which he had formerly solicited in vain from the Earl of Bute, he was of course much gratified to receive it now unasked. He proceeded to lay-down many plans for a course of lectures; but, with his usual difficulty of execution, neither composed nor delivered any. The badness of his health made another journey necessary in 1769, and he visited the Lakes of Cumberland and Westmorland. This was his last excursion, for it was no sooner concluded than his strength rapidly fell away. The gout, to

Digitized by Google

which his frame had long offered but a faint resistance, settled itself upon him with an inveteracy of attack, which soon laid hold of his stomach, and killed him in convulsions on the 30th of July, 1771.

Since his death, two editions of his poems and letters have been published, with an account of his life and character; the first by his friend Mason, the second and better by Mathias. The claims which his memory had on public regard were finely refreshed by these performances. His epistles are a model of interest and elegance, which no one can read without wishing that to travel and to relate his travels, had always been more the fortune of his circumstances, and the inclination of his mind. Gray was, perhaps, the most finished scholar of his day; he was not only profoundly read in ancient and modern literature, but deeply versed in history and metaphysics; and what was of still greater merit, an able critic in every branch of learning. He also composed in Latin with great purity and nerve. His life, otherwise highly commendable and exemplary, was an unbroken course of moderate independence. It has been objected that he was fastidious and effeminate; but if he lived chiefly for himself, it was always in the pursuit of knowledge and the practise of virtue. Though a poor man, he was not covetous; out of the little he possessed he was always willing and glad to relieve the needy; and of the money he had saved, he made judicious bequests.

As an author he had some peculiarities. He not only wrote very slowly, but never began one line before he had polished the preceding one perfectly to his judgment. There was no rough copy, or unfinished couplets to be seen on his papers; all with him was slow labour, and sure success. Milton is reported to have had a conviction that he composed with greatest fluency at particular periods—such as the rise of the moon, day-break, and the fall of eve; but Gray carried the notion to a greater excess; and imagined he could only write when a fit or happy impulse seized him. This fancy has been ridiculed as false and foppish, but is, notwithstanding, likely enough to occur. A man of inactive habits and unrestrained study, such as Gray was, occupies his mind for amusement, and is in a manner led by its vagaries. If

Digitized by Google

his feelings are sensitive, his spirit is easily depressed; and if a moralizer upon the vanities of life, his ambition may be quickly damped. While thus overcome, he may think of exertions he has planned, but the idea will be accompanied with a sense of weight which he may easily suppose too great to be shaken off, because circumstances have never forced him to try the experiment. As habit becomes nature, so this disposition may grow confirmed, until at last the mind will not resign the mastery it has obtained over the man, and be diverted.

Digitized by Google

MONTAGUE, EARL OF HALIFAX, K.B.

In the north aisle of Henry the VIIth's. chapel, in Westminster Abbey, is a monument to the memory of George Montague, Earl of Halifax, who derives title to particular notice from the place he is allowed to hold amongst the British poets. The monument consists only of a tall pyramid, supported by bronze griffins, on a pedestal: to the former is attached a coat of arms, which is also in bronze.*

* Close by is a bust and pedestal to the memory of Sir George Saville, Marquis of Halifax, who died on the 5th of April, 1695. He was successively created Baron Eland, Viscount, Earl, and Marquis of Halifax, and held the office of Lord Privy Seal, at intervals, during the reigns of Charles the Ist. and IInd. James the IInd. and William the IIIrd.

There is also another nobleman, bearing the title of Halifax, George Montague Dunk, commemorated in Westminster Abbey. He was nephew to the subject of this sketch, and has been already mentioned in the course of the work as the patron of Cumberland. His monument stands in the north cross aisle of the Abbey, and presents a bust, which has been praised for the fidelity of the likeness, supported by two emblematical urchins, of whom the one, upholding a mirror, and treading on a mask, indicates Truth; the other, offering the insignia of the Garter, represents Honour. The ledge of the pedestal is enriched with devices, and the following is a copy of the inscription:—

Sacred be the Monument which here is raised by gratitude and respect,
To perpetuate the memory of
George Montague Dunk, Earl of Halifax,
Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter,
Whose Allegiance, Integrity, and Abilities
Alike distinguished and exalted Him in the reign of George the IInd. and of
George the IIIrd.

Digitized by Google

Charles, the son of the Hon. William Montague, and grandson of the Earl of Manchester, was born on the 16th of April, 1661, at Horton, his father's seat, in Northamptonshire. He received the first rudiments of instruction in the country, and, in 1677, was removed to Westminster school, where he obtained a King's Scholarship, and attracted the favourable notice of Doctor Busby by his aptitude in the composition of extemporaneous epigrams. Repairing to Oxford, in 1682, he had the good fortune to be placed as a fellow-commoner under his relation, Dr. Montague, who extended a particular care over his general conduct, as well as studies, and contributed greatly to make him a worthy companion for the great Sir Isaac Newton, with whom

In the year 1745, (an early period of his Life)
He raised and commanded a Regiment
To defend his King and Country against the alarming Insurrection in Scotland.
He was soon after appointed First Lord of Trade and Plantations,
In which Department
He contributed so largely to the Commerce and Splendour of America,
As to be styled "Father of the Colonies."
At one and the same time He filled the united great Offices of
The First Lord of the Admiralty,
Principal Secretary of State,
and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.
He was afterwards appointed Lord Privy Seal;
On the resignation whereof he was recalled to the important Duties of
Principal Secretary of State,
And deceased (in possesion of the Seals) June 8th, 1771.

His worth in private Life was eminent and extensive,
And was best testified by the Honour and Esteem
Which were borne him living,
And the Lamentations bestowed on his Ashes.

Among many Instances of his liberal Spirit, *one* deserves to be distinctly recorded.
During his Residence in Ireland,
He obtained the grant of an additional 4000*l.* per Annum for all subsequent Viceroys,
At the same Time Nobly declining that Emolument himself.

Digitized by Google

he now became acquainted, and continued intimate until death severed them asunder. He prosecuted his classical pursuits at the University until he had reached the age of two and twenty, and when at last he began to think of a profession, was for some time inclined to take orders. This purpose, however, was not long cherished, for he left Oxford in 1685; married the Countess Dowager of Manchester about the same time, and entered upon the list of political aspirants, by purchasing one of the clerkships of the council for 1500*l.*

Henceforward he was the associate of wits and the companion of poets, with whom he competed upon several public occasions. His introduction to them, and his arrival in town, were both occasioned by the kindness of the Earl of Dorset, who thought so highly of his maiden production—a poem on the death of Charles the II. that he immediately tendered him the advantages of his friendship. This was in 1685; in 1687 he joined Prior in writing the fable of 'The Town and Country Mouse,' a most inept but popular burlesque upon Dryden's 'Hind and Panther.' To distinguish between the merit of Montague and Prior in this common labour is impossible, because no one has known what part of the whole was separately produced. As it was said to be the work of both, both shared alike the credit it obtained, although, perhaps, the critic will be disposed to award the larger portion of the composition, and consequently of praise, to Prior. That it was polished by him, the melody of the numbers seems to attest; indeed, it is difficult to conceive how two persons could have joined in one effusion, otherwise than by one of them having sketched the idea and rough copy, and the other having then worked out the beauties of it, and completed the design.

The battle of the Boyne offered Montague, in common with the rest of the court poets, a subject for his muse; and it was to the merit of his verses upon that subject, he owed the honour of a first introduction to King William, although he was of the number of those who sat in the convention which resolved to invite him to the country, and also one of those who signed the address upon the strength of which he then acted. He was presented by his first friend, the Earl of Dorset, who is said to have observed to the Monarch, in allusion to the joint fable, upon

Digitized by Google

the occasion—"*Sire, I have brought a* MOUSE *to wait upon your Majesty.*" To which the King answered with promptitude—"*Then you do well to put me in the way of making a* MAN *of him;*" and immediately gave the fabulist a pension of 500*l.* a year.

In the year 1691 he took his seat for the first time in the House of Commons, and henceforward his conduct belongs more to the general entertainment of history, than the particular interest of these pages. For the scope of our plan, ample though it be, chiefly regards a notice of those men who were supereminent in their stations, or professions; and above all that portion of their lives by which they mainly earned their elevation. Now the political exertions of Charles, Earl of Halifax, had nothing in them to raise him above the level of most statesmen. In this capacity he will be found to have possessed those qualities without which no man can succeed in the career: prompt, active, and discerning; for the age in which he figured a very skilful financier; powerful in strengthening the pretensions of his own party, and pointed in discomfiting the measures of his opponents; he was caressed when in office, and respected when out of it. The first question which he conspicuously advocated was that just and liberal one which proposed to extend to prisoners arraigned for high treason the benefit of counsel. The measure was carried with a very good grace, considering the circumstances of the period; and the discussion was marked by a very happy turn, in which Montague exemplified its propriety. In the midst of a very able speech in favour of the enactment, he became suddenly confused—lost the connexion of his ideas, and was for some moments unable to proceed. Recovering his self-possession, however, he very naturally observed, "that he stood before them a convincing proof how reasonable it was to allow counsel to men called as criminals before a court of justice, when it appeared how much the presence of that assembly could disconcert one of their own body."

After this period, he rose with great rapidity in honours, confidence, and office. First, he was appointed one of the Commissioners of the Treasury, next introduced to the Privy Council, and afterwards, in 1694, appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer. In this trust he did himself much honour, and rendered the state

Digitized by Google

some particular services; first, by the attention he gave to the state of the currency, which, greatly worn and infamously clipped, had for a long time been reduced to an ebb of depreciation most prejudicial to commerce, and ruinous to public credit. This he called in with address, and again issued with great dispatch, in a better form; so that a new coin of standard value was in full circulation, within two years after the commencement of a reformation in its form and quantity. In 1696, he enjoyed great praise for having projected the *general fund*, a financial scheme, which, though it must cede in ingenuity to the expedients of modern times, was in his day deservedly well thought of, for it raised the character of the national credit in a very effective manner. These measures, and an inquiry he subsequently moved into the grants made of crown-lands in Ireland, were so highly appreciated by the Parliament and the people, that a vote passed the Commons, declaring, that *Charles Montague, Esq. had deserved his Majesty's favour*. So signal a confirmation of the deserts of his political services naturally led to still higher rewards. Thus we find him progressively first Commissioner of the Treasury in 1698; auditor of the Exchequer during the year after; and in the next year again, created Lord Halifax.

Fortune, however, is seldom constant, and popularity never consistent. The House of Commons, who had actually fathered his greatness, became dissatisfied with the creature of their own acclamations, when they saw it firmly elevated, and impeached his services; but the Lords, with more sense, refused to countenance an inquiry which arose out of clamour, and was never strengthened by facts. It is to this course of political eminence more than to any superiority in his compositions, that we are chiefly to ascribe the literary reputation of Lord Halifax. Unquestionably, he was less great as a poet, than as the patron of poets; and the charm of his celebrity in this capacity is to be traced to his own generosity, and the gratitude of his brothers on the lyre. Unlike many others who have advanced in life to a rank superior to that they started from, or originally studied to acquire, he always cherished a regard for his early pursuits; and as he was ever sensible of the difficulties and poverty that generally cloud its sunshine, and repress the ripening of its fruits; so he was never remiss in lightening the one, and assisting

Digitized by Google

the other: such generosity certainly may be allowed to extenuate flattery. Addison, Prior, Smith, Thomson, Tickell, and many others, too numerous to remember or particularize, were his intimate associates, even when most exalted, and were all complimented by him, advanced in place, or rewarded with money, as their wants or their wishes required. At no period in our history were literary men so much honoured, and their lucubrations so well recompensed, as immediately about the reign of William III.; and the praise of this discernment is to be given, above all others, to the Earl of Halifax. Not only the readiest, but the surest road to reputation at that period, was to dedicate to him; it was in fact the passport of authority to public regard and private fortune. Hence it has been recorded without exaggeration, that Halifax lived upon dedications; and it is pleasing to be able to add, as was also admitted after his death, that no one encomiast went away disappointed and unrecompensed.

The accession of Queen Anne threw all those who had supported King William and a foreign influence back into the shade of privacy, and with them Halifax also was forced to retire. But though unemployed, he was not idle; and though not preferred, far from unimportant. The former opposition to his success now revived with a new flame, and the Commons again tendered articles of impeachment against him upon the old grounds; but for their old reasons the Lords also rejected them again He next appeared before the public at the head of the boisterous inquiry into the danger of the Church, but soon turned his mind to a more important concern. The political union between England and Scotland, which was consummated during this reign, was not only carried into effect under the direction of Lord Halifax, but is said to have been devised by his ingenuity.

The tide of fortune was now about to flow into its former bed, and he stood forward among the first who floated upon the stream. He led the party who passed the act for securing the protestant succession in the House of Hanover; and when the Court was obliged to confer the order of the Garter upon the elector, he was chosen as the ambassador who should invest it. Upon his return he was forward in obtaining the writ which summoned the elector to sit in Parliament as Duke of Cambridge; and when, soon after, his grace was invited to the

Digitized by Google

crown, Halifax received the full measure of royal favour. The order of the Garter which he had already presented to the new sovereign, the sovereign himself now returned to him, and with it added the patent of an earldom. He was immediately restored to his former power, by being reinstated in the Treasury as First Commissioner, and securing to his nephew the reversion of that more profitable post, the auditorship of the Exchequer. Higher he could not reasonably have expected to be raised: in place there was no one superior to him; and as for honours, when heaped together at once, they fail in respectability. What additions, either of desert or distinction, time would have led to, it is vain to conjecture, for he was spared for what he possessed but a short time. An inflammation seized on his lungs, and put a period to his life, on the 19th of May, 1715: but the gratitude of praise did not cease with the power of reward, and Halifax was lamented after his death by almost all who had eulogised him during life.

The following is the inscription upon his monument:—

H. S. E.
CAROLUS MOUNTAGUE,
Honorabilis Georgii Mountague de Horton
In Agro Northantoniensi filius,
Henrici Comitis de Manchester nepos,
Qui Scholæ Regiæ apud hanc Ecclesiam
Alumnus,
Collegiæ Stæ. Trinitatis apud Cantabrigienses
Socius,
Literis humaniorib[illegible]m feliciter excoluit,
Ut inter nostratium primos
Tum Poetas, tum Oratores,
Dispari licet studiorum in genere
Pari tamen cum laude floreret;
Bonarum Artium disciplinis instructus
E Academiæ Umbraculis
In publicum prodiret,
Literatorum jam tum Decus
Mox & Præsidium.
Brevi etenim hunc Virum
Sua in Senatu facundia,

Digitized by Google

In Consilio providentia
In utroq. solertia, fides, authoritas
Ad generandam Ærarii curam evexit;
Ubi laborantibus Fisci rebus
Opportunè subveniens,
Monetam Argenteam
Magno Reipublicæ detrimento imminutam
Valori pristino restituit;
Et tantæ molis opus
Cum, flagrante bello diutino,
Et aggrederetur et absolveret,
Ne subsidia Regi Regnoq. necessaria
Deessent interim,
Ne fides aut privata aut publica
Vacillaret uspiam
Sapientér cavit.
His erga Patriam et Principem meritis
Utriusq. Benevolentiam complexus,
Avitum stirpis suæ splendorem
Novis Titulis auxit:
Baro scilicet, deinde et Comes Halifax
Creatus
Ad tres Montacutiani nominis Proceres
Quartus accessit:
Summo deniq. Periscelidis honore
Insignitus
Dum promovendæ saluti & utilitati publicæ
Omni mente incumberet,
Medios inter conatus
(Proh lubricam rerum humanarum sortem)
Cum bonorum omnium luctu
Exstinctus est
XIX. die Maii A[illegible]i. MDCCXV.
Ætatis Suæ LIV.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL, ESQ:

LONDON
Published by John Williams 41 Paternoster Row
1826

Digitized by Google

HANDEL.

ABOVE the statue of Addison, in the south cross aisle of Westminster Abbey, is the monument of this great musician, who vainly provided for the honours of an interment and commemoration here, in his last will and testament. It is the work of Roubilliac, and was the last piece he lived to finish. The back-ground is filled with an organ; above, an angel is introduced playing on a harp; and in front is placed a figure of the deceased, in the act of composing, and attitude of inspiration. Beside him is the score of 'The Messiah,' and that page open beginning, '*I know that my Redeemer liveth*,' &c. This statue has been generally praised for a good likeness; but the whole performance can boast no peculiar elegance. The inscription only recapitulates his name, and the dates of his birth and death.*

* At the same elevation are two monuments, which demand particular notice, as much on account of the striking manner in which they are finished, as the particular reputation of the names they record. Of these, the one nearest to Handel, was erected by Augusta, mother of George the III. to the memory of Stephen Hales, D.D. F.R.S., the philosopher. It is tabular, and wrought in alto relievo, presenting figures of Religion and Botany supporting a medallion of the deceased. Underneath is a globe, on which, in allusion to the doctor's invention of the ventilator, the winds are displayed. The mere allegory of this design cannot delight, but the grace and neatness with which it is finished are highly pleasing. Dr. Hales was a clergyman deservedly eminent in botany, chemistry, and experimental philosophy. Born at Bekesbourne, in Kent, during the year 1677, he was educated at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and attained a fellowship in 1703. Devoting his mind, from this period, with great assiduity and no mean success, to philosophical investigations, he first became known by the invention of a brass machine, for the purpose of demonstrating the pla-

Digitized by Google

George Frederick Handel was born on the 24th of February 1684, at Hall, in Upper Saxony, where his father practised physic. A strong passion for music early displayed itself in him; but his father destining him for the profession of civil law, forbad him to touch an instrument. Notwithstanding this opposition, he con-

netary system. This was the foundation of that ingenious piece of mechanism, subsequently completed by Rowley, and so well remembered under the name of an Orrery. In 1733 Hales obtained his doctor's degree from the University of Oxford; and in 1741 communicated to the Royal Society his method for clearing prisons, ships, &c. of foul air, by means of ventilators. Among the published volumes of the same body, are to be found various papers, in which he made known several other projects and inventions, of great interest and utility. Patronised by Frederick, Prince of Wales, and his wife, the Princess Augusta, he might have aspired to the highest dignities in the church; but such was his moderation, that he would not accept even of a canonry in Windsor, and rested content with the living of Teddington, in Middlesex. He was induced, however, to act as almoner and clerk of the closet to her Royal-Highness. Dr. Hales died on the 4th of January, 1761, and is also to be praised for four volumes of Statical Essays, a treatise on the ill consequences of drinking spirituous liquors; Vegetable Statics; and Vegetable Essays.

Not far removed is a sarcophagus projecting from the wall, on which is seated a figure in the robes of a divine. It was erected by Harley, Earl of Oxford, and commemorates John Ernest Grabe, who was born in 1666, and educated at Koninsberg, in Prussia, where his father was professor of theology and history in the University. Becoming dissatisfied with Lutheranism, because it wanted the essentials of an uninterrupted episcopal hierarchy, he was on the point of becoming a convert to Catholicism, when it was suggested to him that the Church of England, possessing the features he desired, was more congenial to his previous creed. To England, therefore, he repaired, and had the fortune of obtaining a pension of 100*l.* a year from William the III. In 1698, he published the first, and in the year following the second, volume of "Spicilegium SS Patrum," a collection of tracts by the early fathers and heretics. In 1700, he took dean's orders, and was presented with the chaplaincy of Christ's Church, Oxford. Pursuing his critical studies, he edited in succession, the works of Justin Martyr, Irenæus, and Bishop Bull. But his greatest labour was a publication of the Septuagint version of the Old Testament from the Alexandrian Manuscripts. The first four volumes came out by the year 1709, in folio and octavo; and the rest were printed from posthumous manuscripts in 1719 and 1720. He died Nov. 3, 1711, and was buried in the church yard of St. Pancras, Middlesex.

Digitized by Google

trived to practise in private, and when only seven years old was accidentally heard playing on a church organ, after service time, by the Duke of Saxe Weifenfels, who was so much struck by the style of the performance, that he inquired his name, and ultimately encouraged his father to see the bent of his genius cultivated. Accordingly, he was placed under Zackaw, the organist to the cathedral church at Halle, and profited so rapidly by the instructions he received, as to be able to compose church services with instrumental accompaniments during the course of his first year's apprenticeship, and continue for the space of three years after to produce a new service for each recurring sabbath.

After surpassing his master, both as a composer and a performer, he was removed to Berlin in his fourteenth year, and placed under the care of a relative who held a situation at the Court. There he is said to have benefited so much from the lessons of Attilio, who conducted the Italian opera with great success, that the King offered to send him into Italy at his own expense, and undertake the care of his fortune when his education should be completed. But the monarch was proverbially capricious in such matters, and Handel's parents therefore declined his patronage. After such an occurrence it was impossible for the young musician to remain at Berlin: he returned to Halle, panting for a visit to Italy, but restrained from the journey by the narrow circumstances of his parents.

Repairing therefore to Hamburg, where the opera was powerfully supported, he lost his father, and was necessitated to teach pupils, and accept an inferior station in the orchestra. Ere long, however, the principal pianist, a dissipated man, absconded from his creditors, and Handel put in a claim for the appointment upon the presumption of superior ability. A trial of skill between him and the performer on the second harpsichord ensued, and he won the battle: but the victory had nearly cost him dear, for his rival, stung with mortification, made a lunge at his breast with a small sword as he was leaving the house, which must have penetrated to the heart, had not a music book which he had fortunately stuck in his bosom, broke the violence of the blow. Having thus acquired an opportunity for the display of his talents, he soon rose in reputation, and was made composer to the theatre before the year elapsed. The first opera he set was

Digitized by Google

Almeria, which was repeated for thirty successive nights; and nearly equal applause attended the representation of two others—Florinda and Nerone, which he produced within the term of another year. This success procured him the advantages of an intimacy with many influential admirers of his art, and amongst other compliments, the Grand Duke of Tuscany offered to take him through Italy free of all expense, and secure of every convenience. This was an enjoyment which he had long determined to avail himself of, but not in a dependant state: he therefore declined the liberal proposal, and after remaining at Hamburg for five years, found he had saved a purse of ducats, which justified him in undertaking the journey on his own account.

Florence was the first city of note at which he made any stay: there he was honoured with free access to the palace of the Grand Duke, who prevailed upon him to compose his first Italian opera 'Rodrigo,' for which he received a present of one hundred sequins, and a service of plate. Proceeding to Venice he brought forward a second Italian opera, 'Agrippina,' which was performed with considerable applause for seven-and-twenty nights. From Naples, which he visited next, he repaired to Rome, and was nobly entertained and highly flattered by the most influential cardinals. While thus caressed he had the honour of playing a passage which the dexterous Corelli found difficult to execute, and divided the palm with Scarlatti, who was then esteemed the best pianist in Italy. But notwithstanding all this superiority, and the reputation which accrued to him from some hundreds of very happy pieces which he composed, the man seems not to have been well liked; for his patrons, as well as his equals, complained of the petulance of his temper, and the gross pride of his character.

After spending six years in Italy, he returned to Germany, and was offered a pension of 1500 crowns, and the place of Chapel Master, by the Elector, soon after George the I. of England, to fix his residence at Hanover. This liberal offer he accepted upon the condition of receiving a year's leave of absence to fulfil an engagement with the Elector Palatine at Dusseldorf, and avail himself of a pressing invitation sent to him by the Duke of Manchester and several English nobles. Accordingly, after having been handsomely dismissed from the palatinate, and paying a visit to his aged mother and old master at Halle, he arrived in

Digitized by Google

London during the year 1710, was presented at Court, and distinguished by the most flattering attentions. With the arrival of Handel may be fixed the legitimate performance of Italian operas in this country. His own 'Rinaldo' led the example of reformation, and was much esteemed. He became director of the old house in the Haymarket, received a pension of 200*l.* a year from the Queen, and found himself so well treated in every respect, that he broke his promise to the Elector of Hanover, and continued profitably employed in London. The most popular of his productions about this period were the grand 'Te Deum,' and 'Jubilate,' in celebration of the peace of Utrecht.

The death of Queen Anne and succession of George the I. seemed at first to augur ill for the continuance of this prosperity. Conscious of the violation of a positive engagement, he could not presume to appear at Court, and dreaded both disgrace and resentment. From this dilemma, however, he was soon rescued by the good offices of a former friend, the Baron Kilmansegge, who accompanied the new monarch to England. Receiving notice of a royal excursion on the river, he prepared some music, and superintended the performance of it at the landing of the party for refreshment. The King, taken by surprise and pleased with the composition, asked who it was to whom he was indebted for the entertainment: and upon being told to Handel, good-naturedly called him from concealment, and not only forgave him, but doubled his pension on the spot, and nominated him music-master to the royal family.

From the year 1715 to 1718, Handel resided with the Earl of Burlington, and spent the two next years under the Duke of Chandos, who entertained him as chapel-master to the splendid choir he established at Canons, his country seat. It was for the service of the magnificent chapel there, that he produced those anthems and organ fugues, which alone would have sufficed to immortalize his name. From these avocations he was called away in 1720 to become Director of the Royal Academy of Music, which was instituted upon the model of the similar establishment in Paris, for the purpose of securing the nobility a more effective representation of Italian operas, and supported by a munificent subscription to the amount of 50,000*l.* But notwithstanding the great patronage thus concentrated for the success of the measure, some weighty opposition was offered to it in consequence of the

Digitized by Google

influence possessed by Bunoncini and Attilio, who superintended the affairs of the old house. To accommodate these differences, and settle the question of superior talent, it was proposed that Handel and Bunoncini should set an opera together, each taking an act in his turn. 'Muzio Scævola' was the produce of this competitory trial; and the palm being awarded to Handel, he went to Dresden to engage a fresh body of singers, and opened the academy with great applause. In this station he continued eminently happy during a term of nine years, and perhaps at no other period was music so nobly cultivated in England.

The jealousy of actors, composers, and even authors, is so proverbial, that it cannot, perhaps, be thought at all strange, that, in 1729, Handel and his dramatic corps fell into a state of tumult, which ultimately disgusted the public, and ruined a most expensive establishment. The actors complained of the violence to which the temper of the composer subjected them, and the composer retorted that the caprice and arrogance of the actors was unbearable. Stenesino, the principal male singer, was the first to begin the quarrel, and Carestini, Cuzzoni, and others, ere long made it a general broil. Once exasperated, Handel refused to compose for those who had offended him, and no entreaties could induce him to swerve from his declaration. By continuing inflexible, he forfeited the patronage of the nobility, who set up another house in Lincoln's Inn Fields, which was put under the management of Porpora, and made effectively popular by the voice and talents of Farinelli.

Undaunted by this opposition, Handel made some bold efforts to entertain the public. Entering into a partnership with Heidegger, he went to Italy, brought over several new singers, and commenced the usual season with a very good company. But though he struggled hard, he struggled vainly. Heidegger left him after a three years' contest; he continued the battle alone for another twelvemonth, and was then forced to exchange establishments with his rivals. No better fortune resulting from this removal, he shut up his doors, and entered into a partnership with Rich, in Covent Garden, where his 'Ariadne' was first played in 1733. Still his cause advanced not: by degrees, he was obliged to part with all the money he had saved to pay his debts; and his passion, under the joint pressure of disappoint-

Digitized by Google

ment and distress, became ungovernable. A stroke of the palsy deprived him of the use of his right hand, and he spoke and acted with such extravagant violence, that by many he was reputed insane. A temporary absence from England, however, calmed his temper, while the baths of Aix la Chapelle restored his injured health. Upon his return to London, in 1736, he set Dryden's 'Ode on Alexander's Feast' to music for Covent Garden, where it was so well received that overtures of accommodation were made to him from the Opera House, and he was engaged to supply, for the following season, two pieces, 'Faramondo' and 'Alessandro Severo,' which were rewarded with a present of 1000*l.* So rapidly did the hostile feelings from which he had suffered now subside, that he realised 1500*l.* by a benefit at the Haymarket in 1758. At this conjuncture, could he only have submitted to write for Farinelli, and consent to a becoming association with the other composers, who had the chief management of the opera, he might have restored his fortune and reputation with ease and rapidity. But dogged obstinacy was his severest enemy: he would yield nothing, and therefore received no favour.

After bringing out some more Italian operas at Covent Garden, which fell very short of adequate success, he began the composition of those oratorios which constitute the great basis of his fame; and yet at the beginning they were far from returning satisfactory profits or praise. Nevertheless, he continued to produce them Lent after Lent, until the year 1741, when, disgusted at the cool reception of the 'Messiah,' which has ever since been esteemed the finest of the series, he went over to Dublin. In that capital no professional jealousies or fashionable prejudices clouded the sunshine of his talents, or marred the splendour of his entertainments, and the 'Messiah' was enthusiastically admired. These expressions of public favour induced the most beneficial consequences; for, upon his return to London, after a profitable absence of nine months, crowded audiences came to hear and applaud the composition. 'Sampson' was next put into rehearsal; and the reputation of the oratorios increased with every returning season. Among the circumstances which operated to quell the voice of this popular hostility, it is not improbable,

Digitized by Google

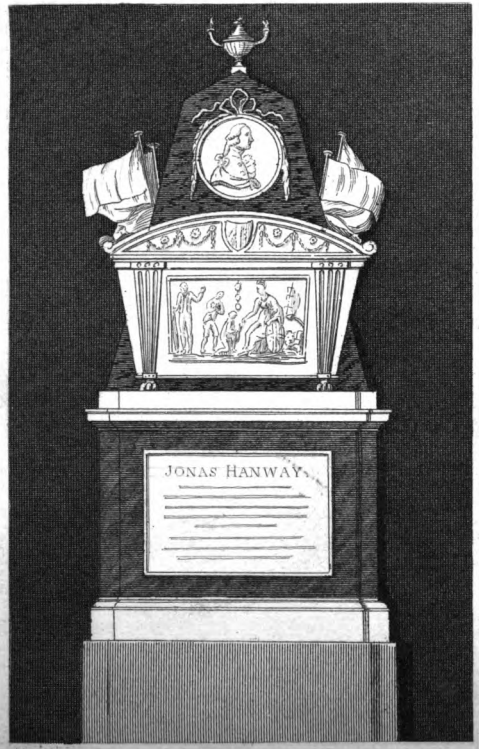
that the tribute which Pope paid to his talents in the Dunciad availed much.

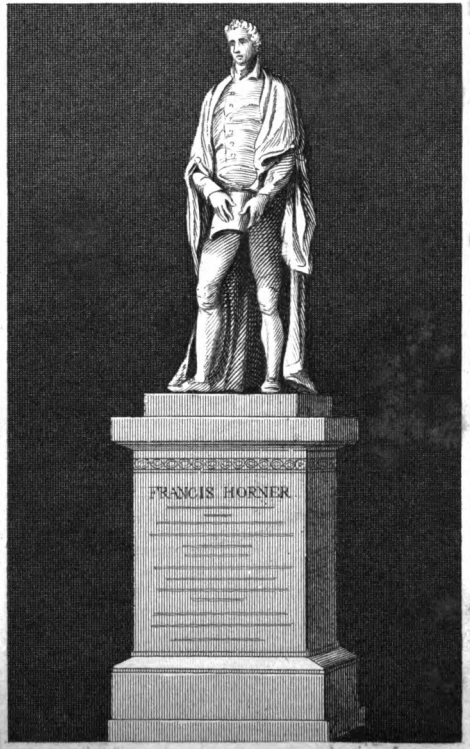
Such was the just estimate in which Handel's great powers were held, when, in 1751, a gutta serena wholly deprived him of sight, a misfortune which had also befallen his mother some time before her death. Although unflattered by any promises of relief, he insisted that several operations should be made, which were as fruitless as painful. But this calamity, which, if not the severest, is perhaps the most pitiable of all that may be inflicted on human nature, had but little effect upon his spirits. He continued to perform in public with his accustomed precision and constancy, and even composed several new pieces, though he engaged an assistant for the general business of the orchestre. We are told, however, that the performance of his own melancholy air, 'Total Eclipse,' from the oratorio of Sampson, ever after used to agitate him strongly. Early in 1758, his health began to decay rapidly; his appetite, which had always been keen, then failed him; he abandoned all hopes of living, and reprobated the confidence of his physicians with peculiar warmth. On the 6th of April, 1759, he took his place as usual in the orchestre, but expired, after a few days' illness, on the 14th of the same month. The solemnity of his funeral, for which he provided in his will, was honourably performed. The bulk of his fortune, amounting to 20,000l., as he was never married, he bequeathed to a niece; but gave the copy-right of his works to Mr. Smith, the professor, who had latterly assisted him in the direction of the oratorio performances, which, it is universally known, have been repeated without intermission down to the present time. But a more honourable tribute of national respect for his name was given in 1785, when a musical commemoration, consisting of pieces chosen exclusively from his works, was held in Westminster Abbey. Five hundred instruments gave due effect to the selections; their late Majesties and family, attended by the principal nobility and gentry of the three kingdoms, added splendour to the scene, and the performances were justly pronounced the grandest ever exhibited to this country.

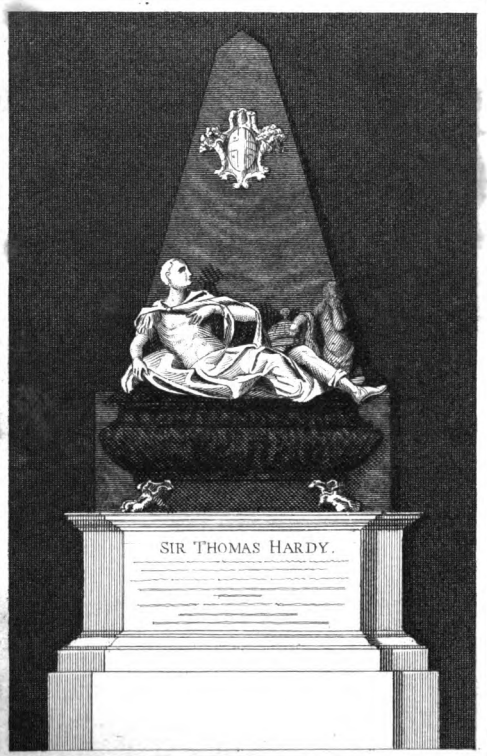
Handel in person was large and ungainly; in manners rough; coarse in his general tastes; and gross in his appetite, which he always indulged to excess. He has been reproached with pe-

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google







LONDON.
Published by John Williams 44 Piternoster Row.
Oct. 1826.

Digitized by Google

nuriousness, and evidently possessed a criminal temper; yet his heart seems to have been susceptible of much kindness, and he certainly performed acts of great liberality. He is said to have frequently relieved those who were friends to the poverty of his youth; he supported his aged mother, and the widow of his old master Zachaw, and would have provided for his son, but the man's dissipation was incorrigible. As a musician he stands alone; he founded a great style, and it has never been rivalled. Decent, grave and majestic, he was the Milton of music. The graces and refined variety of the Italian school, and the simplicity of our own national ballads, are not to be traced in his scores, yet he [redacted] unadorned beauty peculiar to himself. Deep force and we[redacted] characterise all his productions; but his instrumental [redacted] animents, chorusses and fugues, are, beyond compare [redacted] etic, full, and overwhelming. Some have shown more [redacted] ion, and richer combinations; others may have more happily approached nature and breathed passion; but no one has so nobly proved the dignity of his art as Handel.

JONAS HANWAY.

[redacted] orth cross aisle of Westminster Abbey, is a monument to record the virtues of Jonas Hanway; it is a tribute defrayed by voluntary subscriptions, and executed by Moore, the sculptor. The design consists of a sarcophagus surmounted by a pyramid which is topped with a lamp, and relieved by a medallion of the deceased. On the front of the sarcophagus, Britannia, decorated with the emblems of her state, is introduced in the act of distributing sailors' dresses to poor boys. The following is a copy of the inscription:—

Sacred to the memory of
[redacted] JONAS HANWAY,

Digitized by Google

Who departed this life September the 5th, 1786, aged 74,
But whose name liveth, and will ever live whilst active piety shall distinguish
The CHRISTIAN, integrity and truth shall recommend
The British MERCHANT, and universal kindness shall characterise
The CITIZEN of the WORLD.
The helpless infant nurtur'd through his care,
The friendless PROSTITUTE sheltered and reformed,
The hopeless YOUTH rescu'd from misery and ruin
And trained to serve and defend his country,
Uniting in one common strain of gratitude,
Bear testimony to their Benefactor's virtues:—
THIS was the FRIEND and FATHER of the POOR.

Jonas Hanway was born on the 12th day of August, 1712, at Portsmouth, where his father was storekeeper in the dock-yard. Upon the death of the latter, which took place with sudden violence, his widow removed to London, and there bred up four tender children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the oldest, with singular prudence and affection. After an ordinary education, in which he attained some proficiency in Latin, Jonas was bound apprentice in his seventeenth year, to a merchant in Lisbon, and was remarkable for the neatness of his person, and the punctuality of his conduct. In that city he subsequently entered upon the business of a factor on his own account, but, in all probability, with no great success, for he returned to London within a year or two after the expiration of his apprenticeship. No relation of his circumstances is preserved from this period until the year 1743, when he sailed from the Thames to St. Petersburg, and formed a partnership with a merchant named Dingley. Events soon occurred which induced him to diverge from the immediate duties of this connexion, and the following is an abstract of the cause and consequences of the change.

In the year 1738, one Elton, an enterprising sailor, who had roved for some time among the Tartars of Bokhara, submitted a proposition to the British factors in Russia, for introducing a trade into Persia by way of the river Volga, and the Caspian Sea. This project being favourably entertained, a cargo of goods was

Digitized by Google

speedily entrusted to Elton, who completed the journey with a rapidity and success which gave universal satisfaction. An act of Parliament was therefore passed for the protection of the trade, and ships were built in which to carry it on; when Elton unaccountably deserted from the merchants, and went into the service of Nadir Shah, the Persian monarch, who made him superintendant of the coast along the Caspian.

Such was the dilemma in which Hanway boldly offered to prosecute the undertaking: his terms were accepted with ready gratitude, and he set out from St. Petersburgh with a caravan of twenty loads of merchandise on the 10th of September, 1743. Taking Moscow and Astrachan in his rout, he reached Astrabad on the opposite shore of the Caspian in safety, during the month of December, and landed his goods with an assurance of protection. At this point, however, his good fortune abandoned him, and he was precipitated into a maze of danger and suffering, such as few would have had the fortitude to endure, or the address to overcome. An insurrection suddenly broke out in the city, and the ringleaders not content with seizing on the merchandize, robbed him of his money, and even deliberated upon the best means of carrying him off into the interior of the country. From this state of insult and cruelty he managed to effect a precipitate retreat; but, instead of flying to the ships and altogether forsaking the venture, he had the courage to pursue the beaten Shah, and obtain a compensation for the loss of the property committed to his charge. To follow him through all the privations he now submitted to, or the imminent risks he ran, would far exceed the limits prescribed for this sketch. It must therefore suffice to state, that after a perilous journey of two months, he came up to the camp in a most exhausted condition, and obtained a decree addressed to the General, who had by this time quelled the revolt, by the terms of which a delivery of all the merchandize, which it was presumed had now been recovered, was directed, and the payment of any deficiency was ordered out of the Shah's chancery.

The favour of this grant involved a reiteration of all that fatigue and peril he had already encountered, but he retraced his steps with resolute patience, and had the satisfaction of receiving eighty-five per cent. upon the value of the whole cargo in the

Digitized by Google

month of June, 1774. Yet even when the affairs of his trust were thus happily settled, his troubles did not terminate. The unhealthiness of the season and intensity of his sufferings induced a violent fit of sickness, and he was detained at Reshd for three tedious months in a state bordering on dissolution. The vigour of his constitution, however, rose superior to this attack, and he returned in safety to St. Petersburg after an absence of one year and sixteen weeks, during which he had traversed about five thousand four hundred English miles. The circumstances of the undertaking having been submitted to arbitration, were ultimately adjusted with amicable feelings; and Hanway continued to reside at St. Petersburg until the month of July, 1750. At that period making his way back to England by land, he inspected the curiosities of the principal cities in the North of Europe, and fixed himself with a moderate fortune at a sister's house in the Strand, before a year expired.

The first occupation to which he now devoted himself was the publication of his travels, which appeared in January 1753, in four vols. 4to., and ran through four editions. This statement involves the praises of literary merit and popularity: the work was written in a plain style, and, though not the most masterly either in its order or views, was expensively decorated with plates, and read with the attention generally paid all books of the kind. The title ran thus:—'An Historical Account of the British Trade over the Caspian Sea, with the Author's Journal of Travels from England, through Russia into Persia, and back through Russia, Germany and Holland: to which are added, the Revolutions of Persia during the present Century, with the particular History of the great Usurper Nadir Kouli.'

Once successfully infected with the contagion of authorship, he continued to indite and publish whenever occasions brought a subject at all within the reach of his powers; so that if not one of the most able, he was at least one of the most indefatigable of writers. Thus, when the question of naturalizing the Jews came on for discussion in the House of Commons, Mr. Hanway, although at the time recruiting his health at Tunbridge Wells, sent up a manuscript pamphlet against the measure to London, which obtained two eitions. The part he acted in this business was one neither liberal nor philanthropic, and

Digitized by Google

therefore adverse to the humanity which characterised his life. If the inconsistency is to be in any respect extenuated, it can only be upon the plea that his faith was superstitious in the denunciations of the Bible. But the natural rights of all men are equal, and it ought always to be a matter of prudence as well as piety, to leave the punishment of those errors which a false religion may beget, to the justice of that power which can alone penetrate the merits of conscientious peculiarities. The Scriptures award no temporal penalty upon heathen or heretic; and thus the man, or body of men, who, from a belief in God and a future state of happiness or misery apportioned to good or evil, adopts that general system of morality which secures the order of society, has an inherent claim to every advantage in that state, of which the prosperity is maintained by his industry, and the honour upheld by his virtues. Persecution and exclusion are derivatively the same; the one is an hypocritical modification of the other, and so long as that is retained, no man can trust that the crimes of martyrdom are exterminated; for the barbarous sophistry which upheld the inquisition in Spain has only a shade of difference from the selfish bigotry which accords all the rewards of a Government to those only who conform to an established creed. In this respect the Catholic in Madrid, the Protestant in London, and the Turk in Constantinople, act together upon a common rule, and they all vary from the Pagan Roman, not so much in the principles of their conduct, as in the extremes to which they carry their views.

The opposition to this measure was strong and malignant, but the Parliament voted the act into a law, and for once the Jew born in England was allowed to inherit the privileges of a subject. The justice of the concession, however, was short-lived: the characteristic terrors of the country were excited, a clamour followed, and the bill was repealed during the very next session. To this unbecoming result, Hanway had the poor satisfaction of contributing, by three more pamphlets entitled 'A Review of the proposed Naturalization', 'Three Letters in reply,' and an 'Answer to Test and Contest.' These performances are now deservedly forgotten, and it were therefore unavailing to condemn the warmth with which they were worded or the misapprehensions on which they were founded.

Digitized by Google

The next object which attracted his attention was one of evident utility: in 1754, a Mr. Spranger of Covent Garden, proposed that Westminster should be paved in a uniform manner; and Hanway immediately addressed a letter to the projector, in which he developed a plan for reducing the idea into practice. Striking as this improvement certainly was, yet six years were permitted to intervene before any thing was effected; but when at last the reformation was undertaken, all the changes he wished to introduce were adopted. Thus the streets first began to be divided into carriage road and footway; the shopkeepers' old signs—those massive impediments to a free prospect and air—were demolished; a paving-board was established, street-keepers were appointed, and the stranger's progress through the metropolis was facilitated by the inscription of the name of every street at its corners.

In the following year much alarm was created by the equipment of a formidable armament at Brest, and Mr. Hanway offered the country his 'Thoughts on Invasion.' From a consideration of the additional number of seamen who might thus be required for the service of the state, he was now prompted to those exertions by which the Marine Society was ultimately established. This commendable charity took its rise from a suggestion given by a barrister named Fowler Walker to Sir John (then Mr.) Fielding, for collecting such boys as might be brought before him in his magisterial capacity, either as petty thieves or vagabond beggars, and fitting them out by subscription for sailors. Four hundred boys had in this manner been withdrawn from the haunts of domestic vice, and sent to serve at sea, when Mr. Hanway called a public meeting at the Royal Exchange, for the purpose of founding a Society to recruit the fleet with landsmen and boys. The proposal was received with considerable approbation, and the object prosecuted with great vigour and perseverance. Mr. Walker's design was incorporated with Mr. Hanway's; a large contribution was gathered, and a house of business erected in Bishopsgate-street, at a cost of 4000*l.* The general prosperity of the concern may be inferred from one statement: in less than six years from the period of the foundation, the governors contributed no less than ten thousand two hundred and thirty-eight sailors to the public service.

Digitized by Google

After purchasing a Governorship of the Foundling Hospital, in 1758, and publishing a pamphlet against some of the customs then observed in that institution, Hanway addressed his cares to provide an asylum for those most miserable of all miserable beings, the prostitutes of the metropolis. The first refuge of this kind was opened at Rome in 626; the second at Naples in 1324; the third at Seville in 1550; and the fourth at London in 1758. Dr. Johnson may be said to have been the first man in England who advocated such a merciful abode. But its establishment was directly occasioned by a pamphlet from Mr. Dingley, the Russian merchant already mentioned in this sketch, who, in 1758, printed 'A Proposal for establishing a Place of Reception for penitent Prostitutes.' Ever upon the alert, Hanway immediately adopted the idea, and recommended it to the public in a series of Letters. Upon this occasion, as well as in the cases of the Marine Society, and metropolitan paving project, he compensated by an eager industry, for the absence of original merit, and thus acquired the honour of being ranked amongst the primitive founders of a most vital charity. How well these labours prospered is universally attested by the Magdalen Hospital, in Great Surrey-street, Blackfriars.

To expatiate upon the various acts of so busy a character, and exemplify the many good reasons he had for exertion, were enough to fill a volume: it must, therefore, suffice to observe that he beneficially filled the office of Steward to the Stepney Society, instituted by some masters in the merchants' service, during the year 1674, for the purpose of apprenticing orphans and poor children to marine trades; that he endeavoured to obviate the cruelty of impressment, by employing a large muster of Government sailors in the merchant service during the intervals of peace; that he contributed to abolish the custom of giving vails, by publishing 'Eight Letters to the Duke of ————'; that he helped to get an Act of Parliament for alleviating the hardships of the poor chimney-sweeper; tried to reform the police of London; and also that he made himself somewhat ridiculous by printing 'Thoughts on Musick,' in 1765. His plans for the preservation of parish poor are marked by a generous perseverance and essential benevolence, which, in justice, require a more particular notice. After five years spent in exploring the work-houses of London, he printed the observations

Digitized by Google

he had made during the period of his inquiries; and, although he failed in rousing that degree of sympathy and extent of reformation to which he aspired, the virtue of his intentions was unquestionable, and the necessity of some correctives may be judged by the following melancholy extracts from his publications on the subject:—

He found that twenty-three children had been committed to one nurse, in the parish of St. Clement Danes, during the year 1765, and that out of this number, in January 1776, two had been discharged, and only three remained alive: that out of seventy-eight children received into the workhouses of the united parishes of St. Andrew and St. George, Holborn, during the same period, sixty-four died before a twelvemonth elapsed: that thirty-seven out of forty-eight perished within another year in the workhouse of St. Luke's parish; and, in short, that there were some parishes to be found which had not a single child living in the workhouse at the year's end. That such a state of things as this could have been exposed, and yet a purification from the mortality be opposed, seems hardly credible; yet such was the fact; and it demanded all the energy and perseverance of Mr. Hanway to ameliorate the condition of the London poor. He had, however, the satisfaction of ultimate success; for he obtained, by his own exertions, and at his sole expense, two acts of Parliament to redress these evils; by the one of which, in 1761, every parish within the bills of mortality was compelled to keep and publish an annual list of all the children received, discharged, and demised under its care; and by the other, in 1766, all infants belonging to the same parishes were directed to be nursed under special guardians until the age of six years, at a certain distance from town.

It would seem, according to the present constitution of society, that no talent can be held to be thoroughly appreciated, and that no merit can carry its meed, unless it is specifically rewarded by the crown. At least this appears the best reason that could have occasioned a request, which was made to Lord Bute, in 1762, by a deputation of merchants from the city of London, with Mr. Hoare, the banker, at their head, requesting that some beneficial notice might be taken of Mr. Hanway by Government. The

Digitized by Google

result of this application was his appointment, during the same year, to be a Commissioner for victualling the Navy. Upon the enlarged income thus produced, he took a house in Red Lion Square, and lived in a style which enabled him to attract the pleasures of a more social acquaintance. Though the duties of the situation were urgent for his years, he contrived to find leisure for other avocations, of which the more meritorious were the unsuccessful establishments of a Lock Hospital at the west end, and Marine Schools throughout the kingdom.

In 1783 his health began to decline, and he resigned his situation, but was, notwithstanding, permitted to receive his full salary. In this easy state of retirement, he still continued as active as usual in charitable concerns; until a disorder in the bladder superinduced a strangury, which put a period to his existence on the 5th of September, 1786.

The scriptures affirm that the death of the just is precious in the sight of Heaven, and perhaps the moralist may add that the last moments of the good are soothing to the hearts of the living. Hanway's biographer asserts, that nothing in life became him more than the dying, and certainly he seems to have met his end with very creditable sensibleness. He bore a tediously-painful illness without impatience or complaint: when assured by his physicians that a recovery was hopeless, he sent for his tradesmen, and paid them with his own hands, bade his friends in London adieu in person, and took leave of those in the country by letter. After receiving the sacrament, and offering his body to the surgeon for dissection, if any benefit could be derived from the operation, he discoursed upon the state of his affairs, heard his will read, gave up his keys, and expired in a shivering fit at midnight.

The life of Jonas Hanway presents to the reader no exhibition of signal talents or great deeds, but, notwithstanding, is far from destitute of a beneficial moral. Devoid of genius or learning, he had good sense, strong feelings, and a readiness of speech, which enabled him to discover, pursue, and exemplify many a valuable object in a manner as honourable to himself as important to others. That he had some vanity, and tinted his character with a few traits of the busy-body is evident; but if he troubled the world to prolixity upon some matters, he contributed to the good of his species in other respects, which are by no means to be

Digitized by Google

held despicable, because seldom favoured by more gifted minds. One prominent part of his character deserves universal imitation; all that he was able to do, he was always prompt to perform; and no man could indite a pamphlet, make a speech, or wade through those onorous labours of solicitation which have long been indispensably requisite to the getting any thing up in London, with more sanguine perseverance or happier address than he uniformly displayed. Most of the undertakings in which he took an active share have already been alluded to, and some idea of his indefatigability as a writer may be entertained from the fact that he began to print in 1753, and at the time of his death was the author of no less than sixty-four books and pamphlets upon one subject or another.

SIR THOMAS HARDY.

Sir Thomas Hardy, knight, and a rear-admiral in the Royal Navy, is commemorated by a monument respectably executed, which stands contiguous to the great western door in Westminster Abbey. He is introduced reposing on a sarcophagus, which is supported by a lofty pyramid of bright purple marble. A boy is weeping over an urn at his side, the pedestal is enriched with various devices neatly wrought; and the inscription runs as follows:—

Sir Thomas Hardy,
To whose memory this monument is erected,
Was bred in the royal navy from his youth,
And was made a Captain in 1693.
In the expedition to Cadiz under Sir George Rooke
He commanded the Pembroke;
And when the Fleet left the coast of Spain to return to England,
He was ordered to Lagos Bay,

Digitized by Google

Where he got intelligence of the Spanish galleons being arrived
in the Harbour of Vigo,
Under convoy of seventeen French men of war.
By his great diligence and judgment he joined the English Fleet,
And gave the Admiral that intelligence
Which engaged him to make the best of his way to Vigo,
Where all the before-mentioned galleons and men of war were
either taken or destroyed.

After the success of that action,
The Admiral sent him with an account of it to the Queen,
Who ordered him a considerable present,
and Knighted him.

Some years afterwards
He was made a Rear Admiral and received several other marks
of favour and esteem from her Majesty,
and from her Royal Consort, Prince George of Denmark,
Lord High Admiral of England.

He died August 16, 1732. Aged 67.

This epitaph is a little biographical sketch in itself, and must be considered the more valuable, inasmuch as we know but a few unimportant facts concerning the subject of it, over and above those it presents to our notice. The name of Sir Thomas Hardy frequently occurs in the naval history of the period during which he lived, but was not connected with any incidents of greater interest than what are here recited. He was constantly employed, and generally upon occasions which required judgment, vigilance and courage. He must also be thought to have fully deserved the eulogy of his epitaph, for his conduct was at different times the subject of public observation, an ordeal which he regularly passed through with distinction. In 1707, he was subjected to a court martial, for not having pursued the French fleet with sufficient vigour, but honourably acquitted. He was soon after called before the House of Commons, and again before the Lords, but was at both times dismissed with praise.

Digitized by Google

RIGHT HON. WARREN HASTINGS.

In the north cross aisle of Westminster Abbey is a plain marble tablet, surmounted by a bust, subscribed 'MENS ÆQUA IN ARDUIS,' which was executed by Bacon, and is said to convey a faithful likeness of the original. The purposes of its erection are fully explained in an engraved epitaph, of which the following is a copy:—

Sacred to the Memory of
The Right Honourable WARREN HASTINGS,
Governor-general of Bengal,
Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council,
LL.D. F.R.S.
Descended from the Elder Branch
Of the Antient and Noble Family of Huntingdon.

Selected for his various talents and integrity, he was appointed by Parliament, in 1773, the first Governor-general of India, to which high office he was thrice re-appointed by the same authority. Presiding over the Indian Government during thirteen years of a most eventful period, he restored the affairs of the East India Company from the deepest distress to the highest prosperity, and rescued their possessions from a combination of the most powerful events ever leagued against them. In the wisdom of his council, and the energy of his measures, he found unexhausted resources, and successfully sustained a long, varied, and multiplied war with France, Mysore, and the Mahratta States, whose power he humbled, and concluded an honourable peace, for which, and for his distinguished services, he received the thanks of the East

Digitized by Google

India Company, sanctioned by the Board of Control. The kingdom of Bengal, the seat of his government, he ruled with a mild and equitable sway, preserved it from invasion, and while he secured to its inhabitants the enjoyment of their customs, laws, and religion, and the blessings of peace, was rewarded by their affection and gratitude: nor was he more distinguished by the highest qualities of a statesman and a patriot, than by the exercise of every Christian virtue. He lived for many years in dignified retirement, beloved and revered by all who knew him, at his seat of Daylesford, in the county of Worcester, where he died in peace, in the 86th year of his age, August 22d, 1818.

This Memorial was erected
By his beloved Wife, and disconsolate Widow,
M. A. HASTINGS.

Few readers would infer from the statements of these inscriptions, that the only claims which the subject of it has upon the memory of his fellow-countrymen, and the notice of these pages, rest upon odious foundations: such, however, is the case. As the glory of some names is preserved to fan the ardour of rising genius, and confirm the perseverance of future virtue, so must the darkness of other lives be durably pictured, to restrain the impetuous and criminal within moderate and inoffensive bounds. In this latter class stands Warren Hastings, a man infelicitously immortalised by the extraordinary talents called into action to prove him a public delinquent of capital enormity.——Born in 1732, at Churchill, a village in Oxfordshire, of which his father was rector, he received his education at Westminster School, and went out to Bengal as a writer in the Company's service during the year 1750. An absence of fifteen years, during which he filled several stations of rank, and attained a creditable knowledge of oriental literature, sufficed for the acquisition of a fortune, which so happily equalled the extent of his hopes that he returned to spend a life of ease in England. Well had it been for him that his ambition had never again diverted him from his home. In the gentle avocations of private society, he was universally liked and respected; as his tastes were literary, his friends were scholars; he became intimate with Dr. Johnson

Digitized by Google

and, at his suggestion, proposed the foundation of a Persian Lectureship at Oxford.

But who will refuse authority, particularly when it conveys a compliment to the understanding? In 1768, Hastings was appointed second in council at the Presidency of Madras, and departed from England without delay. He had scarcely held this dignity a year, before he was removed to the Presidency of Madras, in which he continued until 1773, when an act of Parliament raised him to the fatal supremacy of Governor-general of India.

Three years passed away, and Lord North, to whose influence he owed his elevation, became dissatisfied with his conduct, and desired his deposition. A question to this effect was entertained by the East India Directors, and thirteen votes, forming the bare majority of the court, supported the proposition. The subject, however, was reconsidered and rejected; and he consequently retained his place. The year 1778 terminated the period to which the act of Parliament limited his commission; but Lord North proposed his re-appointment, and it was carried first for one, and afterwards for ten years. These continued favours appeared to augur well for his prosperity; nevertheless, a happy close of this second administration was a blessing for the enjoyment of which he was not destined. In 1785, he returned to England, to answer charges upon which the House of Commons impeached him before the Lords of high crimes and misdemeanours.

The trial which now ensued is one of the most memorable upon record. Persons undoubtedly have been arraigned before the sword of justice, whose crimes were of a blacker die, whose lives were of greater importance, and whose guilt or innocence involved consequences of deeper concern to the people at whose tribunal they stood; but these and all considerations of a similar nature seem to have been absorbed in the intense interest which was created by the astonishing powers displayed upon the investigation. Burke, who has acquired the reputation of having been the most perfect orator this or any other country ever produced, conducted the inquiry, and pronounced, during the course of it, speeches equal to any of those which he delivered upon other

Digitized by Google

occasions: Sheridan, too, distinguished it by some powerful harangues, of which, one in particular, according to the report of all who heard it, constituted the most noble piece of eloquence that had been heard or recorded by ancient or modern times, whether at the bar, in the senate, on the judgment-seat, or from the pulpit; and Fox, Pitt, and Windham, enlightened its various stages by the additional resources of their uncommon capacities.

The proceedings began in the parliamentary session for 1786, and terminated during the one for 1794—thus including a term of nine years. Unexampled as this appears, the statement only applies to what was strictly the duration of the trial. The conduct of Hastings had been a topic of parliamentary inquiry and animadversion for some time previous. For instance, two committees of the House of Commons, the one open, the other secret, deliberated upon the affairs of India in 1780 and 1781, and reported that 'Warren Hastings, Esq. Governor-general of Bengal, and William Hornby, Esq. President of the Council at Bombay, having in sundry instances acted in a manner repugnant to the honour and policy of this nation, and thereby brought great calamities on India, and enormous expenses on the East India Company; it is the duty of the directors of the said company to pursue all legal and effectual means for the removal of the said Governor-general and President from their said offices, and recall them to Great Britain.'

That this penal declaration would have been followed up to the extreme which it ultimately reached, if Mr. Fox's India Bill had not supervened, appears very problematical. At least the steps it recommended were not pursued until that celebrated measure came to be discussed. Then it was that Mr. Burke stigmatised Hastings as the Captain-general of iniquity, and resorted to his alleged misconduct as an argument in favour of the act, a line of attack which was challenged by the Lord Chancellor Thurlow, who answered, "if Hastings be the depopulator of provinces, let his crimes be brought forward, but let the question be decided upon its own merits." The gauntlet thus thrown was naturally accepted by one of Burke's ardour, and to this sparring, in all likelihood, the nation stands indebted for the subsequent proceedings. Some time was consumed in acquiring information, and some farther delay was occasioned by the absence of the Gover-

Digitized by Google

nor-general from England. He returned, however, during the recess of 1785; Parliament re-assembled on the 24th of January, 1786; and on the 17th of February following, Burke opened the impeachment in form.

To go over a cause so prolix, stage after stage, must in the repitition weary the reader as heartily as in the original it fatigued the public. A mere knowledge, therefore, of the nature of the offences which were brought against Hastings may be presumed enough to satisfy the reader, and that may be attained by abstracting the marrow from a few of those charges which were most strongly supported by the evidence. First, then, he had not only maintained in doctrine, but in practice also, that the *ruling power* in India was the *absolute proprietor* of the soil, and therefore entitled to levy from the landholder every exaction it pleased that ruling power to require.—Secondly, in violation of a positive instruction to engage in no offensive wars, he co-operated with Sujah Dowlah, the Nabob of Oude, in subduing the Rohillahs, an adjoining province.—Thirdly, he expelled from the city of Benares, the Rajah Cheyt Sing, notwithstanding an explicit *pledge, under his own sign manual,* that no entrenchments should be made upon this same Rajah's rights. Such a breach of faith was culpable enough, but the pretext under which it was effected was enormously criminal. The Rajah had covenanted to pay the Company something about 250,000*l.* a month, in return for their guarantee that he should live undisturbed in his possessions. But because the man was tributary for one thing, Hastings, in the tyranny of superior power, made him tributary for other, and those most irrelevant, purposes. Three times did the Governor-general extort from him, and with the most unmerciful pertinacity, sums of 50,000*l.* under the pretext of contributing towards the expenses incurred by the French war. These demands were enforced without a solitary bond, compact, law, or usage, to justify or extenuate the enormity; and yet, in 1781, Hastings called upon the same Rajah to furnish him with a troop of thirteen hundred horse, and when the persecuted victim, after equipping a part of them, stated his utter inability to do more, and remarked upon the hardship of forcing a man to expend sums which he had never stipulated to pay; then did the summary Governor-general march down

Digitized by Google

to Benares, accuse the Rajah of *a conspiracy to stir up a rebellion*, and clap him into confinement. The people, naturally fired by so unwarrantable an indignity, rose up in arms, and forcing a passage through the guards with headlong slaughter, rescued away their prince to a place of refuge. In the issue, Hastings overran the whole territory, and the miserable Rajah was forced to exile himself among the Mahrattas.—Fourthly, he not only *permitted*, but even *urged* the Nabob of Oude to rob his own mother and grandmother of all the property which had been left to them by his father, a sacrilegious act, by which these princesses were reduced from a state of ample wealth to want the necessaries of life. This constituted the great Begum case, upon which Sheridan pronounced his celebrated oration; and certainly the subject matter was exciting enough. It also appeared that the Governor-general had received *presents*, although presents were interdicted by his instructions, and his oath —but it is needless to specify any more counts of an impeachment, the nature of which, by this partial recapitulation, must be more than intelligible.

Mr. Hastings was acquitted, but the historian who shall be called to relate the melancholy events of his administration can never, with honour or truth, colour his pages according to the tenor of that verdict: and even the reader of these pages may pause before he reputes him innocent; for the way in which the Lords discharged him was by no means decisive of the fact. The House of Peers only returned him not guilty, because the *whole* of the evidence, oral and written, before the House of Commons, did not appear to be unquestionably confirmed by the sworn testimony before them—a disparity which the length of time wasted on the affair, and the technicalities of a tedious defence, may, perhaps, not unreasonably be thought to have occasioned.

Being thus, after a nine years ordeal, recognised an innocent subject in the eye of the law, he received some compensations for the sufferings he had to undergo while his character remained equivocal. The East India Company, who, whatever may have been his moral deserts, were certainly aggrandised by the enterprises he undertook, voted him a grant of money to defray the expenses of his trial, and provided for the ease of his future

Digitized by Google

life by a pension. He was also permitted to enjoy the honours of a seat in the Privy Council, but he never after interfered much with political matters. The scorched child shuns the fire; and Hastings withdrew to Daylesford, in Worcestershire, where he closed his life in privacy, as has already been stated in his epitaph.

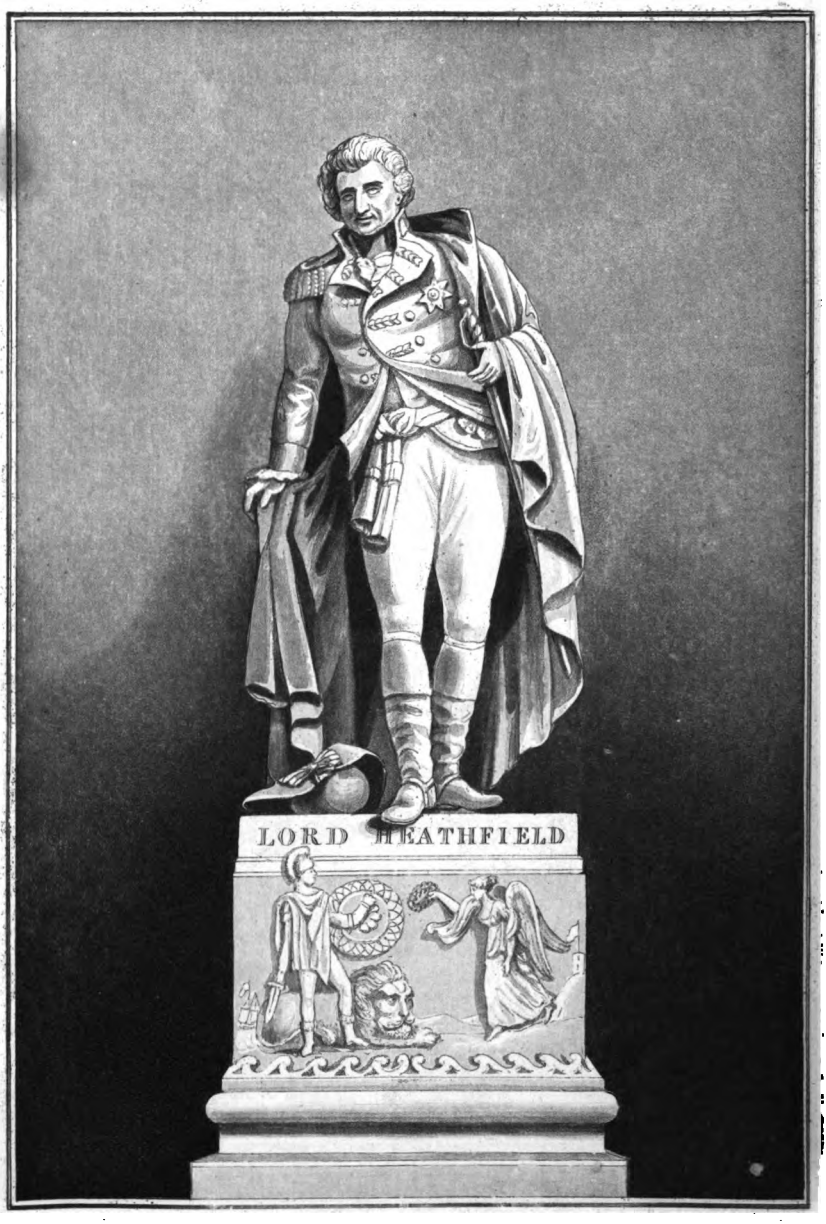
Such was the public life of Warren Hastings; and, perhaps, there have been few men against whom so much has been urged that is egregiously rank, odious, and inhuman. Upon the severe page of history his name will be recorded with no light censures: not only the offences charged against him in the course of his long trial, but the general policy of his government concur to excite an unfavourable opinion of his mind and character. India Slavery, and the religious disabilities of the Irish, afford instances the most painful, that though the constitution of England, as expounded by political writers, is fair, equitable, and generous, beyond any code ever penned, its principles have been enforced with the narrowest parsimony. As the injudicious agent of such political discrepancies, Hastings can receive but little grace from the judgment of future times; but when followed to his home, and found divested of power, the portrait is very different.

In his private circle he appears, by all accounts, to have been truly amiable, and much respected—so much so, that could the estimate of his life be summed up from the testimonies of numerous personal friends alone, there is scarcely an individual to be described with more interesting qualities.

He was always attached to letters, and is known as an author by some tracts on India, a volume of fugitive poetry, and several speeches, which were pronounced in his own defence, and subsequently printed.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google



LONDON.

PUBLISHED AS THE ACT DIRECTS BY JOHN WILLIAMS, 44, PATERNOSTER ROW.

January 1826.

Digitized by Google

ELIOTT, LORD HEATHFIELD, K.B.

A STATUE of Sir George Eliott, Baron Gibraltar and Viscount Heathfield, was erected in the south transept of St. Paul's Cathedral in 1825. It is modelled larger than life in the regimentals of a general officer, and was executed by C. Rossi, R.A. The pedestal is wrought in alto-relievo, representing Victory descending from a castellated rock to crown a warrior on the sea shore with laurel. The style of this statue, both in the attitude of the figure, and the expression of the countenance, is creditable; but the alto-relievo upon the pedestal is singularly bad. It is not inscribed with an epitaph.

George Augustus, the son of Sir Gilbert Eliott, was born at Stobbs, in Roxburghshire, during the year 1718, and educated at the University of Leyden. His earliest passion was for a military life: he first entered the army as a volunteer in the service of the King of Prussia, and upon his return to Scotland attached himself as a volunteer to the 23d regiment of foot. In 1736, he obtained a commission in the corps of Engineers, and paid considerable attention to the studies which are necessary for success in that department of the service. Six years afterwards his uncle, General Eliott, procured him the adjutancy of the 2d troop of Horse Grenadiers, a regiment in which he passed through the various gradations of rank until he became a Lieutenant-colonel, and was made Aid-de-camp to George the II. It was with this regiment that he first distinguished himself in Germany, and was wounded at the battle of Dettingen. In 1759, he was nominated by the King to raise and discipline the first regiment of Light Horse, which he commanded with so much success on the Continent, that his Majesty allowed them to be surnamed Eliott's, and be honoured with the appellation of Royals. He was gazetted a Lieutenant-general in January 1761, and upon the termination

Digitized by Google

of the war accompanied his regiment to the Havannah. Early in 1775, he received the post of Commander-in-chief of Ireland, but was removed, before the year closed, to be Governor of Gibraltar: with this command he was raised to the rank of General, in April 1778, and acquired the highest reputation.

The siege of Gibraltar, by the united forces of Spain and France, is an historical event, signal, glorious, and so proverbially eulogised, that it can hardly be necessary to relate here the circumstances from which it arose, or the many gallant stages in which it proceeded. The place was invested almost at the very beginning of the war, and maintained a superior defence under every emergency; but in 1782, the state of the garrison excited an interest the most intense throughout all Europe. The Spaniards had just reduced Minorca, and came to urge on the siege, confirmed by the spoils of victory, flushed with the gracious promises of an enthusiastic sovereign, and strengthened by allies the most gallant and experienced. Their preparations were vast and extensive beyond all example: no less than 1200 pieces of ordnance, and 83,000 barrels of gunpowder, were provided for the attack: the combined fleets of France and Spain, amounting to fifty ships of the line, hovered around the bay to cover every movement; 12,000 chosen Frenchmen led the operations, and the Count D'Artois and Duke de Bourbon, the one brother, and the other a cousin to the King of France, descended to the fortifications for the express purpose of adding enthusiasm to the cause and magnificence to the scene.

The condition in which the Governor was thus placed was imminent in the extreme: such was the scarcity of provisions, that every article was put up to public auction in the market-place, and the officers, the men, the inhabitants, and even Eliott himself bade for every thing in common, and made their purchases upon terms of perfect equality. But what principally aggravated this distress, was a total ignorance of the particular designs or precise nature of the offence meditated by the besiegers. Day after day the Mediterranean thickened with vessels, while fresh labours continually blockaded the land; loose reports of extraordinary manœuvres, and vague declarations of newly invented ordnance of irresistible powers, were incessantly wafted to the rock; but not one positive account or definite information could

Digitized by Google

be attained. Such was the embarrassment amidst which Eliott resolved to try the fortune of a cannonade upon some distant works, which to all appearances were nearly finished. He opened a discharge of red-hot balls, carcases, and shells, at day-break, on the 8th of September; and though the effect was for awhile doubtful, yet so regular was the fire, and so admirably directed, that by ten o'clock the great fort Mahon was on fire, and before the evening closed, totally consumed. The following was a day of retaliation: a new battery of sixty-four heavy guns, and about sixty mortars began to play upon the garrison with the first light, while a squadron of nine ships, taking advantage of a favourable gale, dropped down the bay, and, as they made a circuit of the bastions, kept up an unremitted fire. The discharge by land was even more intense, but on neither side did the garrison betray weakness; shot was returned for shot, and the day concluded without a grade of advantage to the enemy.

These stupendous efforts were daily repeated with a systematic vigour, of which some notion may be formed, when it is stated that the combined army on shore threw 6500 cannon-shot, and 1080 shells, against the rock in every twenty-four hours. The tactics of war were now diversified into multitudinous forms; every operation by land or by sea, which experience could suggest, or ingenuity devise, was resorted to, and it was prophesied aloud, that the British must forthwith surrender confounded, or fall overwhelmed. The boast was bold, but well-founded, and yet the perseverance and intrepidity of the besieged rendered it utterly vain. Nor can that resistance be pronounced less than prodigious, which diverted from complete success, assaults so constant, a weight of fire so astonishing, and manœuvres the most destructive.

Formidable as were the exertions hitherto made, they were far eclipsed by those which took place on the 13th of September —that was, in truth, a day of fiery destruction. At seven o'clock in the morning, one general and consistent cannonade was opened against the rock from every quarter of the works, both from the sea and from the shore. To supply any adequate description of the particulars that ensued were an ambitious task that must fail of its impression. It is easy to state that no relaxation occurred on either side; that the guns flashed, and the

Digitized by Google

balls flew without cessation; but to colour the scene with the might of three great nations in action, to show the dead and the dying, give the loud voice of the fight, the crush of ruined forts and dismembered ships, the roar on the ocean, the thunder on the land, and above all the unnatural glare of flashing lights, which were redder than the sun, and shaded by volumes of smoke, more horribly blackened than the dense clouds of a storm, —this, all this, were impossible. It has been admitted on all hands, that the evolutions of the enemy were masterly and desperate in the extreme, and it raised the astonishment of Europe, to see General Eliott, straitened within the narrow fortifications of a rock, and even curtailed in the ordinary resources of defence, (for the garrison had not been for some time provided with stores,) nevertheless triumphantly withstand a siege, unparalleled in the annals of modern warfare. His defence was in every respect the most complete. The assault raged on with unabated fury during the day, and continued for more terrible destruction during the night. It was at that extreme stage that the battering ships were set on fire—some were burnt to the edge of the water, others were raked in the holds until they sunk, and the rest completely beaten. In the morning only two Spanish feluccas were to be seen in the bay, and they fell into our hands the easiest of captures.

From this period the enemy looked only to the starvation of the garrison for success, and accordingly disposed their fleets to prevent Lord Howe from throwing in provisions for its relief. In that hope they were also disappointed, for, after eluding their superior forces by a series of successful manœuvres, his lordship landed all the stores consigned to his trust on the 12th of October. Some attacks of minor interest were afterwards made, but the vigour of the siege declined, as the expectations of the besiegers were frustrated, and it was gradually abandoned. As soon as peace was restored, General Eliott returned to England, and was made a Knight of the Garter, but a more adequate acknowledgment of his services was awarded in 1787, when he was raised to the peerage by the titles of Baron Gibraltar, Viscount Heathfield. He enjoyed an interval of repose from the cares of command until 1790. In that year he proposed to resume his

Digitized by Google

government, but had proceeded no farther on his way to it than Aix la Chapelle, when he was seized with paralysis, which put a period to his life, on Tuesday, July the 6th, at the age of 73. His body was conveyed to England during the course of the month, and deposited in a vault which was constructed for the purpose near his seat at Heathfield, in Sussex. He had one son, Francis Augustus, who succeeded to his titles and estate, and one daughter, the lady of Trayton Fuller, Esq. who also inherited from him a personal fortune of 20,000*l.*

FRANCIS HORNER, M. P.

Francis Horner is commemorated in the north cross aisle by a statue from the chisel of Chantrey, which is robed in a barrister's gown, and holds a book in the right hand. Of this piece of sculpture enough will have been said when it is observed, that in every respect it justifies the reputation of an artist who has raised his name above all his cotemporaries. The attitude is natural, the expression earnest, the likeness striking, and the execution fine. The epitaph, a composition of appropriate neatness, is thus engraved:—

To the memory of
Francis Horner,
Who, by the union of great and various acquirements,
With inflexible integrity, and unwearied devotion
To the interests of the country,
raised himself to an eminent station in society,
and was justly considered to be one of the
Most distinguished members of the House of Commons.
He was born at Edinburgh, in 1778,

Digitized by Google

Was called to the Bar, both of England and Scotland,
And closed his short, but useful life, at Pisa, in 1817.
His death was deeply felt,
And publickly deplored in Parliament.
His affectionate friends, and sincere admirers,
Anxious that some memorial should exist
Of merits universally acknowledged,
And of expectations which a premature death
Could alone have frustrated, erected this monument,
A. D. 1823.

This inscription resembles a few others which the reader has already been invited to admire in the course of the work:—it is a pattern in its own style—it relates with elegant brevity, and great good feeling, the main facts which distinguished the life, and whatever traits elevated the character, of the individual it commemorates; of one whose time was either consumed in study, or confined to mere professional avocations, it is proverbial that but little can be told; but that little dwindles away, and becomes reduced almost to nothing, when the subject falls prematurely into his grave. Such was the case with Mr. Horner, a gentleman, who, to uncommon powers of mind, added uncommon application and acquirements; but of whom the only particulars that are preserved, save those recited on his monument, are these few. The place of his birth was the old town of Edinburg: the day of it, August the 12th. He was educated at the university of his native city, and called to the Scotch bar in 1798, and the English in 1805. He first became known to the public as a contributor to the Edinburg Review, a periodical, which was the best beyond comparison of any that preceded it, and which has not as yet been surpassed. He was one of the first of those who projected that publication, and long continued one of the ablest of the very able writers who co-operated to establish its reputation. As a barrister, his practice lay chiefly in appeals to the House of Lords, and as a statesman he was more particularly an authority in matters of finance. Of his profundity in this most abstruse of all the subjects in political economy, the speech which he pronounced upon the bullion question, in 1810, supplies extraordinary evidence. The delivery of it occupied four hours, and perhaps no address was ever

Digitized by Google

listened to with more attention, or admired for deeper merits. Connected with his senatorial capacity, it only remains to be added, that he entered the House of Commons in 1806, as member for the borough of St. Mawes, and consequently sat in three parliaments. He once filled, but did not long retain, a situation under Government—it was a commissionership for the liquidation of the Carnatic claims. The disease under which he perished, was a constitutional consumption, which began to distress him early in life, and by enervating him the more, the farther his years advanced, seriously impeded his pursuits. Thus he was first obliged to abandon the practice of his profession, and then to suspend his attendance in Parliament. He went to Italy, flattered with hopes that a milder climate might invigorate his debility, and restore his constitution; but the expectation was utterly vain.

From this so barren a biography it would appear, that it was the character of the man which caused him to be highly esteemed and so deeply regretted: and such in reality was the case, for in this respect the panegyric of his epitaph does not at all exceed the truth. To that character the best and most authoritative testimony was borne, when, according to the forms of the House of Commons, a new writ was moved for a member to supply the seat vacated by his death. Upon that occasion personal friends and political opponents united in his praises, and thus is the historian assured, that he was a staunch Whig less conspicuous for eloquence than principles, and pre-eminently admirable for the invariable rectitude of his conduct, both as a public or a private man. His style of speaking was clear, grave, and decent; never tinged with the lightest air of vanity or presumption, and never tainted by the smallest particle of rancour or personality. If at times he did happen to rise above the tone of sincere moderation, it was only when animated with pity for unwarrantable distress, with indignation at the horrors of a slave trade, or zeal for the impartiality of justice, and the inviolability of the constitution. In friendship he was constant and affectionate; high-minded, and disinterested in his motives, uncompromising and imperturbable in his actions, and so very modest and reserved in his habits, as to appear cold and unsensitive to those who did not enjoy an intimacy

Digitized by Google

with him. This tribute of praise nothing can exceed: it has neither been disputed nor contradicted, and consequently by no other can such a panegyric be supposed to have been better deserved.

JOHN HOWARD.

THE first monument erected in St. Paul's Cathedral was raised to the memory of John Howard, in 1795, and opened to public inspection during the following year. It stands near the great iron gate, leading into the south aisle, and was executed by John Bacon, R.A. It is a plain but significant statue, representing the philanthropist, in the Roman costume, trampling on fetters, and bearing in his right hand a key, and in his left a roll, on which are inscribed the words, 'PLAN FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PRISONS AND HOSPITALS.' The front of the pedestal is filled with a piece of basso-relievo, in which a prison scene is introduced, with a figure distributing food and raiment. The epitaph was written by Howard's relation, the late Samuel Whitbread, M. P. and is engraved on the south side of the pedestal:—

This extraordinary man had the fortune to be honoured while living in the manner which his virtues deserved:
He received the Thanks
of both Houses of the British and Irish Parliaments,
for his eminent services rendered to his Country
and to Mankind.
Our national Prisons and Hospitals,
improved upon the suggestion of his wisdom,
bear testimony to the solidity of his judgment,

Digitized by Google

LONDON
Published by John Williams, 44, Paternoster Row.
May 1827.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

and to the estimation in which he was held.
In every part of the civilized world,
which he traversed to reduce the sum of human misery,
from the throne to the dungeon, his name was mentioned
with respect, gratitude, and admiration.
His modesty alone
defeated various efforts which were made during his life,
to erect this statue,
which the public has now consecrated to his memory.
He was born at Hackney, in the County of Middlesex, Sept. 2d, 1726.
The early part of his life he spent in retirement,
residing principally upon his paternal estate,
at Cardington, in Bedfordshire;
for which County he served the office of Sheriff,
in the year 1773.
He expired at Cherson, in Russian Tartary, on the 20th Jan. 1790,
a victim to the perilous and benevolent attempt
to ascertain the cause of, and find an efficacious remedy
for the plague.
He trod an open and unfrequented path to immortality,
in the ardent and unremitted exercise of Christian charity.
May this tribute to his fame
excite an emulation of his truly glorious achievements.

As the time and place of Howard's birth are specified in this epitaph, it only remains to speak of his parentage. His father was a reputable citizen of London, who kept a warehouse for carpeting and upholstery in Long Lane, Smithfield. He died while his son was yet a boy, but left him, and an only sister, provided with easy fortunes. Notwithstanding the sufficiency of his means, however, young Howard received no better instructions than are ordinarily given to the child of a tradesman: his guardians were men of business, and seem not to have entertained a higher destination for him, than that of being as good a man as his father had been, and after the same way. With these views they apprenticed him to a wholesale grocer, but various

Digitized by Google

circumstances fortunately prevented him from completing the service. His health, naturally delicate, was much affected by the confinement imposed upon him; the dull routine of his occupations, lightened by no variety, and endeared by no information, disgusted the activity of his mind, and after some remonstrances, he bought up his indentures, and set out for the Continent, where he made a tour of France and Italy.

Returning to England, with health improved, but by no means confirmed, he fixed his abode at Stoke Newington, in the house of Mrs. Lardeau. This lady had been an invalid for some years; and either from the force of habit, or the impulse of sympathy, was induced to make Mr. Howard's residence with her agreeable by all that assiduity of delicate attentions which a woman can always make so charming, and which those only who have felt its gratefulness can fully appreciate. That this conduct was disinterested, is stated in all the accounts, and it appears but natural that it should have been so: the widow was broken with infirmities, and double his age. With all these drawbacks, however, she captivated the heart of the young friend to the cause of humanity; he tendered his hand for her acceptance, and, after some little remonstrance, and partial hesitation, they were married during the year 1752. She had a small fortune, which he good-naturedly bestowed upon her sister—without a doubt, to the additional satisfaction of both parties.

Of those early habits by which, in some instances, the character of future greatness has been prematurely indicated, there is nothing known in the case of John Howard. However strongly the propensities of his mind may have been indicated, or the bias of his actions declared, there was no one to take an interest in tracing the developement, and thus the story of his growing philanthropy is lost to the world. Nor is there much preserved that is distinctive of his habits in the first stage of manhood. We are only told that he read with deep attention, and used to mount his pony with a book in his hand, and diverge into a common, where the animal was suffered to graze about at its leisure, until he finished the volume. Moral and scientific subjects chiefly occupied his attention, and his attainments, if not profound, were various and respectable. He cultivated an ac-

Digitized by Google

quaintance with the Royal Society, and was honoured with a Fellowship in it during the year 1755.

After a cohabitation of three years his wife died, and he devoted a year to privacy and regret. But his mind had no sooner recovered its elasticity, than he projected an excursion, admirably distinctive of the virtues which characterised his subsequent travels. Lisbon had just been overwhelmed by the great earthquake; and Howard resolved to visit the scene of devastation, investigate its phenomena, and ascertain its effects. His friends employed all their influence to dissuade him from an undertaking full of perils, amongst which the liability of being taken by privateers, for we were then at war with France, was one of the most imminent. But Howard was at all times remarkable for the firmness with which he adhered to his resolutions; in the present case he turned an indifferent ear to remonstrances, and set personal convenience at defiance. He set sail in 1756, and was almost immediately captured. Being thrown into prison, he had to bear some of those hardships, and to witness most of those distresses, which it occupied so great a portion of his life to correct and alleviate. From the experience which this casualty involved, it may not be amiss to conjecture that he was first led to ingratiate himself with the endearments of philanthropy. His own words upon the point are, "Perhaps what I suffered on this occasion increased, if it did not call forth, my sympathy with the unhappy people whose cause is the subject of this work." It is at least certain, that he made his first efforts in the cause immediately after his liberation, by laying an account of the misfortunes he became acquainted with before the Commissioners of sick and wounded. It is impossible to say that any good resulted from it: the representation, as we are told, was acknowledged with thanks, and that is more than similar aspirations always receive.

He now settled at Brokenhurst, near Lymington, a retired but picturesque situation, and led the life of a studious country gentleman until the year 1758, when he married Harriet, the only daughter of Edward Leeds, Esq., a sergeant at law, who resided at Croxton, in Cambridgeshire. Several years of domestic enjoyment succeeded; but those are intervals the most uninviting to treat upon, though the most engaging to experience. The

Digitized by Google

reader is therefore pressed on to the year 1765, when Mrs. Howard died during her accouchment with an only son; for from this period her widower became publicly devoted to beneficence. Changing his abode again, he bought an estate at Cardington, near Bedford, and determined to fix himself in that neighbourhood for the future. His new purchase, of course, now occupied much of his time; the patronage of a landlord gave fuller scope and greater weight to the virtues of his disposition, and he was soon looked up to with feelings of extraordinary regard. He gave employment to a number of the poor, he built houses, and apportioned strips of land, to provide a refuge and a support for the old, the infirm, or the destitute; he always distinguished the industrious, and systematically preferred the sober; and by degrees became a moral censor of his estate.

In the year 1773, he was pricked High Sheriff for the county, an office which, to borrow his own words, 'brought the distress of prisoners more immediately under his notice.' Numberless abuses of their condition and egregious evils in the economy of the jail staggered his progress, and burthened the discharge of his duties: he felt the necessity of improvement, but he was utterly ignorant of a remedy, and therefore wisely undertook to explore the matter fundamentally. He set out upon one journey to visit all the county jails of England; he returned to his seat, and condensed his information; he entered upon a second circuit, to inspect all the town prisons throughout the country, returned, and again arranged his matter with a diligence so active as to be able to lay before the House of Commons, during the session of 1774, a body of facts, and a volume of knowledge, such as had never before been presented at the bar. He was examined in support of his representations, and after receiving a vote of thanks for his exemplary exertions, had the greater satisfaction of seeing them triumph in two Bills; the one "for the relief of prisoners in matters of fees," and the other "for preserving the health of prisoners." These he printed at his own expense; and, the better to insure attention to their provisions, circulated gratuitous copies of them amongst all the jailors in the kingdom.

It was also during this year that he joined Mr. Whitbread, his friend, relation, and neighbour in the county, as a candidate for the representation of the borough of Bedford in Parliament.

Digitized by Google

Bred amongst the dissenters, and always conforming to their communion, he was upon this occasion put forward mainly upon their interest. After a sharp contest, Messrs. Whitbread and Howard were ejected; they petitioned against the return, and obtained a scrutiny, by the effect of which Mr. Whitbread was declared duly elected, but Mr. Howard confirmed in his minority. This failure may be regretted, for the presence of such a man in Parliament must at all times be considered valuable, and could not have failed to be essentially beneficial at a conjuncture, when measures were in agitation, of which it is not merely to be said that they originated solely from him, but that all others derived their only information respecting them from his reports.

All that is gratulatory in applause, or inciting in praise, now concurred to embolden Mr. Howard in the prosecution of his liberal designs. It may be, that virtue so disinterested as his was, and energies so particular, stood in little need of those popular consolations by which other cares are soothed, and the bulk of all great labours are rewarded; but who is there with mortal feelings, who will not tread more buoyantly while the eyes of a favouring multitude attend his motions, and advance more confidently while the echoes of admiration cheer his prosperous footsteps? The higher the tributes lavished upon the merits of his exertions, the deeper he studied to render those exertions salutary. Not content with what he had done at home, he extended his investigations abroad, and made a discriminating tour on the Continent, to explore fresh receptacles of wretchedness and crime. The result of these complicated inquiries was the publication of his "State of the Prisons in England and Wales, with preliminary observations; and an account of some Foreign Prisons." This work was first published in 1777, and it produced all the astonishment which a volume of such uncommon detail was calculated to awaken. The misery of prisoners, the insensibility of jailors, the negligence of magistrates, all the arts of petty tyrants, and the cruelties of brief authority, were here set forth with a real strength, and corroborated by an aggregate of facts, such as had never before been exercised to move the pity or exasperate the abhorrence of mankind. Nor can the effect, however enthusiastic, be now considered extravagant. This was an unprecedented mass of

Digitized by Google

the most important knowledge, accumulated by a private individual, gathered through a pilgrimage of prodigious labours, and attained at the constant danger of infection and frequent risk of his liberty and life. As the motives which actuated him were voluntary, so were the ends he proposed gratuitous: he did not seek, he did not, he could not, expect title or remuneration for his trouble or expenditure; the direct objects of his charity could only return a blessing for the good he bestowed upon them, and he never once accustomed himself to mix in the circle where services are vainly measured by a ribbon, and talents inaptly gauged by the points of a coronet.

This unabated zeal was again seconded by the Parliament; a Bill was passed for the institution of houses of correction according to plans suggested by Mr. Howard, and he immediately set forth on a journey to inspect the hospitals and bridewells, as well on the Continent as throughout the United Kingdom. He took notes of the regulations, and obtained draughts of the structure, of every establishment which presented any marked promises of utility; and was thus enabled to publish a valuable appendix to his great work during the year 1780. About the same period he became one of three supervisors for the foundation of penitentiaries; but some differences occurred respecting the construction of the very first building that was determined upon, and he resigned the office before a year had expired.

This partial disappointment, however, occasioned no relaxation of his humane efforts; indeed, he appears to have been a man incapable of repose while his mind suggested an end which could interest or promote the cause he had espoused. The investigations to which he latterly devoted his time, had induced him to remark the nature and progress of contagious disorders in hospitals, prisons, &c. &c., and he now turned his inquiries to discover a preventive treatment for the plague. Such were the bold intentions with which he resolved to examine all the lazarettos of Europe. Unwilling to involve a second life in the dangers of this pilgrimage, he travelled alone through the sea-ports of France, Italy, and Zante, and sojourned at Smyrna and Constantinople. Hearing that a new infection had broken out in Smyrna, he repaired there a second time; and, after observing the ravages of the disorder, proceeded to Venice with a 'foul bill,'

Digitized by Google

that he might become personally conversant with the treatment to which patients were subjected in the lazarettos of that celebrated city.

Such an unwearied spirit of enterprise, and so intense a heroism in suffering, roused the most vivid feelings of admiration throughout all Europe. At home, subscriptions for a public monument to perpetuate his name were proposed, and liberally tendered, but the entreaties of his own modesty intercepted the fulfilment of the honour. 'Have I not one friend in England,' he asked, 'who would save me from the pain of such a proceeding?' The design was therefore deferentially abandoned, but the money collected was laid at his own disposal for charitable purposes.

Returning home soon after, he devoted two more years to ascertain the extent of improvement which had taken place in the various prisons, bridewells, hospitals, hulks, &c. &c., throughout the kingdom. The first part of the year 1789 he spent in methodising and printing his "Account of the principal lazarettos in Europe, with various papers relative to the plague, and further observations on prisons and hospitals." In this volume he communicated an intention of again leaving his country, for the purpose of revisiting Russia and Turkey; and, as soon as the contents were laid before the public, he proceeded to fulfil the announcement. As this was his last voyage, the view which he took of it himself may not prove uninteresting to the reader, for whom his words are here extracted. "I am not insensible," he observed, "of the dangers that must attend such a journey. Trusting, however, in the protection of that kind Providence which has hitherto preserved me, I calmly and cheerfully commit myself to the disposal of unerring wisdom. Should it please God to cut off my life in the prosecution of this design, let not my conduct be uncandidly imputed to rashness or enthusiasm, but to a serious and deliberate conviction that I am pursuing the path of duty; and to a sincere desire of being made an instrument of more extensive usefulness to my fellow-creatures, than could be expected in the narrow circle of retired life."

If we connect the solemnity of this passage, with the fatality that ensued, we shall feel almost justified in asserting that a presentiment of the future was impressed upon his mind when he

Digitized by Google

wrote it. For the result he looked forward to with so much solicitude, speedily took place. Prompted by that benevolence which always urged him into the most hazardous extremes, he penetrated as far as Cherson, a new settlement in Russia, which had proved fatal to thousands. At this remote spot, he engaged, with the activity of youth, in a series of experiments to counteract the insalubrity which afflicted the inhabitants; and amongst others, was induced to visit a young lady, who lay ill of an epidemic fever. But in his endeavours to recover her, he caught the distemper himself, and, after years of exposure, fell a martyr to his own humanity. Prince Potemkin, the favourite minister of the great Catherine, no sooner heard of his indisposition, than he despatched his private physician to his relief. All attentions, however, proved vain; the measure of his labours was numbered; and he expired on the twelfth day of his confinement. His body was interred in the garden of a French gentleman in the neighbourhood, and the grateful admiration of the Russian empire has since honoured the spot with a handsome tomb. In England, the event was announced in the Gazette, a compliment which had never before been conferred on a private individual; and all ranks concurred in sincere expressions of regard for the memory of a man, who, in the most essential points, usurps the praise of having been an ornament to human nature.

John Howard, the philanthropist, was unquestionably one of the most extraordinary characters who figure upon the voluminous pages of universal biography. He travelled thrice through France, four times through Germany, five times through Holland, twice through Italy, once through Spain and Portugal, and paid different visits to Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Poland, and Turkey. The cause of humanity has certainly been more benefited by others, and at greater sacrifices, but never upon terms more surprising, or a dearer price. He was admirably fitted for his labours; never indulging in the use of spirituous liquors, sparingly conversant with social pleasures, and ever habituated to a system of rigorous temperance, he lived in the poorest countries with content, and passed through the most necessitous emergencies without irksomeness. With him the mind appears to have ever been absolute master of the body, and thus he submitted to all hardships with alacrity, and underwent every mortification without

Digitized by Google

the smallest reluctance. Calm in temper, and most resolute in judgment, he was parsimonious to his own person, but unbounded in his expenditure upon others. To him money seems to have been only valuable in proportion to the good it enabled him to render his fellow-creatures. His talents were the most useful, but not shining; he wrote with much good sense, and but little elegance; for his education was deficient, and his acquirements in every respect attained by the force of inherent power and constitutional perseverance. In his principles there was nothing speculative; his opinions were founded upon accurate observation, and all his statements were the evidence of facts. His eagerness to ameliorate the wretchedness of the prisoner, never made him the less anxious to correct vice, and deter from crime: he reformed, while he punished; and insinuated the charms of order into the atonement of licentiousness. Discipline, strict, invariable, but gentle discipline, softened by every comfort which is compatible with the circumstances of the sufferer, was uniformly the doctrine he desired to inculcate. Wherever he went, his reputation was the highest: at home and abroad, state prisons and public hospitals were thrown open to his touch with grateful alacrity; the most exalted flattered him with respect, the lowest hailed him with veneration; and he moved about in his own department, by common consent, the most influential censor of the age.

Burke pronounced a most splendid panegyric upon the motives and incidents of his life: it was introduced into a speech delivered at the election of Bristol, for 1780, and ran thus:—"I cannot name this gentleman without remarking that his labours and writings have done much to open the eyes and hearts of mankind. He has visited all Europe—not to survey the sumptuousness of palaces, or the stateliness of temples; not to make accurate measurements of the remains of ancient grandeur, or to form a scale of the curiosities of modern art; not to collect medals, or collate manuscripts;—but to dive into the depths of dungeons, to plunge into the infection of hospitals, to survey the mansions of sorrow and pain, to take the gauge and dimensions of misery, depression, and contempt; to remember the forgotten, to attend the neglected, to visit the forsaken; to collate and compare the distresses of all men, in all countries, and edit the mis-

Digitized by Google

fortunes of the human race. His plan is original; and it is as full of genius, as it is of humanity. It was a voyage of discovery; a circumnavigation of charity. Already the benefit of his exertions is felt more or less in every country: I hope he will anticipate his reward by seeing all its effects realized in his own. He will receive, not by retail, but in gross, the reward of those who visit the prisoner; as he has so fotestalled and monopolized this branch of charity, that there will be, I trust, little room to merit by such acts of benevolence hereafter."

EARL HOWE, K.G.

THE monument erected by the gratitude of his country to perpetuate the reputation of this successful Admiral,* stands under the east window of the south transept in St. Paul's Cathedral. In front is placed a statue of his lordship, leaning on a telescope, and guarded by a lion couched, the figure of British strength and security. Above, on a rostrated column, sits Britannia with her trident, and to her right below, History appears in the act of recording the more prominent of his Lordhip's

* In the south aisle of Westminster Abbey, is a monument to the memory of GEORGE AUGUSTUS VISCOUNT HOWE, and elder brother to the subject of this sketch. It consists of a large heavy tablet, surmounted by his lordship's coat of arms, affixed to a military trophy, before which a female figure reclines in the expression of grief. It was designed by B. Stewart, and executed by Scheemakers, but to neither the one artist nor the other is much praise due for the performance. The inscription details his Lordship's claim to notice with sufficient clearness.

The Province of Massachusets Bay, in New England,
By an order of the Great and General Court,
Bearing date February the 1st, 1659,
Caused this monument to

Digitized by Google

ADMIRAL EARL HOWE.

LONDON.
Published by John Williams, 41 Paternoster Row.
Nov.r 1825.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

actions, while Victory, leaning forward over the shoulders of History, deposits a branch of palm in the lap of Britannia.

Be erected to the Memory of George Lord
Viscount Howe, Brigadier-General of his Majesty's
Forces in North America, who was slain July 6th, 1758,
On the march to Ticonderago, in the 34th year
Of his age; in testimony of the sense they had of his
Services and Military Virtues, and of the affection
Their Officers and Soldiers bore to his command.
He lived respected, and beloved; the publick regretted
His loss; to his family he is irreparable.

Near at hand, but in a lower range, is a monument to the memory of Colonel Robert Townshend, another gallant officer, who also lost his life at Ticonderago, under circumstances which greatly excited the public sympathy. It consists of a sarcophagus richly decorated with military emblems, and supported by two Indians, who are admirably carved after the style of the ancient Caryatides. In front is a scene in basso-relievo, on which is a fine representation of the place and manner in which the Colonel fell. Altogether it is a very effective and masterly piece of work: R. Adams, architect, and B. and S. Carter, sculptors, were the artists employed upon it. The inscription reads as follows:—

This monument was erected
By a disconsolate Parent,
The Lady Viscountess Townshend,
To the memory of her fifth son,
The Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Townshend,
Who was killed by a cannon ball,
On the 20th of July, 1759, in the 25th year of his age,
As he was reconnoitring the French Lines at Ticonderago,
In North America.
From the Parent, the Brother, and the Friend,
His social and amiable Manners,
His enterprising Bravery,
And the Integrity of his Heart,
May claim the tribute of affliction:
Yet, Stranger! weep not:
For though premature his death,
His life was glorious,
Enrolling Him with the names
of those Immortal Statesmen and Commanders,

Digitized by Google

Flaxman, the academician, was the statuary of the group, and the style in which it is executed may be safely said to uphold the character of the artist. Earl Howe's statue is imposing in attitude, and striking in feature; there are also some other neat traces of merit to be distinguished upon the work; but our praise of the whole cannot go very far; there is a heaviness about them all, and the design is made up of the cold and uninteresting materials of allegory. The epitaph is expressed with no elegance, and runs thus:—

Erected at the Public Expense to the Memory of
Admiral Earl Howe,
In testimony of the general sense of his great and meritorious services,
In the course of a long and distinguished life, and in particular for the benefit
Derived to his Country by the brilliant Victory which he obtained
Over the French Fleet, off Ushant, 1st June, 1794.
He was born 19th March, 1729, and died 5th August, 1799, in his 74th year.

Richard Earl Howe, the second son of Sir Emanuel Scrope, Viscount Howe, in the kingdom of Ireland, was educated at Eton School; and entered the navy in his fourteenth year. He made his first voyage under Lord Anson, when that gallant sailor undertook the command of the memorable squadron which explored the South Seas. Accident prevented young Howe from a full share of the honours which redounded upon those who were concerned in the expedition; for a storm scattered the fleet in the Straits of Lemaire, and his ship, the Severn, was so disabled

Whose Wisdom and Intrepidity,
In the course of this comprehensive and successful war,
Have extended the Commerce,
Enlarged the Dominion,
And upheld the Majesty of these Kingdoms,
Beyond the idea of any former age.

Digitized by Google

by its violence, that the Captain was obliged to put into Rio de Janeiro, for the purpose of refitment, whence, unable to rejoin his commodore, he was fain to return to England. Four years after the date of this first service, he was appointed to the Burford, which was placed under the orders of Admiral Sir Charles Ogle, and employed under many emergent circumstances to coast along the shores of Curaçoa and the Caraccas. On the 23d February, 1745, the Burford came into action, during which the damage done was so severe, that her destruction became inevitable. At the Court Martial, which ensued after this loss, the evidence of young Howe was heard with much interest and approbation; he detailed the circumstances of the engagement with a collected perspicuity and modest proof of knowledge, and described the death of his Captain, who had both his thighs shot off, with an overflow of honourable grief, which fully deserved the compliments that were paid to him upon the occasion. While attached to the same squadron, he gave another proof of judgment and intrepidity, which is well entitled to the merit of a specific record. Sailing before the Dutch settlement of Eustatia, with the rank of acting lieutenant on board a sloop of war, he volunteered his services to claim an English merchantman, which had been captured and carried into the port by a French frigate. Disappointed of success in his efforts at negociation, he devised a scheme for cutting the merchantman out of the harbour, and solicited leave to execute the plan himself. The Captain strongly represented the dangers of such an attempt; but his ardour was not to be subdued, and he was at length permitted to execute his project. The event was fully equal to the energy of the conception; he performed the task with signal care and prudence, and had the honour of restoring the captured vessel to her owners without loss or damage.

In the momentous events of the year 1745, he rose alike in rank and merit. Appointed to the command of the Baltimore sloop of war, which was one of the vessels serving under Admiral Smith, on the coast of Scotland, he had the fortune, in company with another sloop, of falling in with two French frigates, which were loaded with arms and ammunition for the Pretender. No sooner were the hostile colours recognised, than he ran his vessel between the Frenchmen, and at a first tack was almost close enough to

Digitized by Google

board. A desperate conflict arose: ill content with the mere superiority of command, the young Captain displayed the most active courage; and amidst the confusion of personal contest, issued his orders with marked precision and coolness. Thus doubly occupied, in directing others, and fighting himself, a musket-ball struck his brow, and he was carried from the deck apparently lifeless. Animation, however, soon returned, and though the surgeons were performing the most painful operations, first in probing, and then in dressing and closing the wound; the first use he made of his returning strength was to hail on his men above boards with cheers; and no remonstrance could prevail upon him to control his excitement, and economise the chances he had of recovery. On the contrary, his head was no sooner bound, than he rushed upon deck, amidst the shouts of his crew, and supported the action with redoubled eagerness and determination. The merited effect of this gallantry soon became apparent: the French sheered off disabled, but the state of the Baltimore was so shattered that a pursuit was evidently vain. The Admiralty, however, fully appreciated the conduct of the victor, and his promotion to a Post Captaincy, and the command of the Triton frigate, serving on the same station, followed the public account of the action without delay.

In March, 1750, we find him again as actively and as successfully employed on board the La Gloire, of 44 guns, with the command of his Majesty's ships along the coast of Africa. Upon his arrival, he was met with loud complaints from the settlers along Cape Coast, against the ill treatment of the governor of the Dutch, who held an adjoining fort. After a vain exertion to obtain satisfaction by inoffensive means, he soon disposed himself so as to dictate the terms of accommodation, and adjust every difficulty before him. From this quarter he is to be traced in the command of several ships of the line, and through a varied succession of difficult services in the Mediterranean, until the year 1758, when he obtained the Dunkirk, a new ship of 60 guns, and was dispatched under Admiral Boscawen, to cope with the French fleet, which at the same period set sail for North America. Arrived on the coast of Newfoundland, it was there determined to prevent the enemy from entering the gulf of St. Lawrence, and though many obstacles were opposed to the execution of the

Digitized by Google

plan by a succession of fogs, under which the English fleet were scattered, and the French concealed, still the first clear day that came, showed two frigates in sight—the one the Alcide, of 64, and the other the Lys, of 22 guns. For these Howe immediately made sail, and first coming up with the Alcide, ordered her to the stern of the British Admiral. The Frenchman asked whether this was for peace or war, and was answered that the orders to fire were expected every moment, upon which he coolly answered, the English may begin when they pleased. To this Howe replied with equal indifference, that he would yield the advantage of beginning; and, in consequence, both ships came into action almost at the same time. They fought on for an hour, when, though superior in tonnage, guns, and men, the Frenchman struck, with a capital of 80,000*l.*, and nine hundred land forces on board. A night or two after this happy distinction, Howe was roused from sleep by the lieutenant of the watch, with notice that the magazine was on fire. If such be the case, observed the Captain, we shall soon have convincing assurance of it, and proceeded very deliberately to dress himself, while the Lieutenant flew back to his post in evident agitation. Returning again in a few moments, he found Howe still going on slowly with his toilet, and told him that he need not be afraid for the flames were extinguished. 'Afraid, Sir!' retorted the Captain, looking him full in the face, 'pray how does a man feel when he is afraid, for I need not ask how he looks?'

In September, 1757, he served in the expedition against the Isle of Aix, and led the van on board the Magnamine, of 74 guns. Though the fort began to fire on him as soon as he came within gun-shot, still he continued his course without returning a single cannon, until he had urged his pilot to drop the ship under the very walls. His anchor there thrown out, he commenced so brisk a cannonade that the colours of the enemy were drawn down in less than an hour. The year 1758 now drew on, and Howe removed into the Essex, of 64 guns, in which vessel he was nominated Commodore of the squadron which was destined to cover the debarkation of an offensive body of troops on the French coast. On the 1st of June he weighed his anchor, and on the morrow, found himself before Cape La Hogue. Hence, passing by St. Maloes, he stood into the bay of Cancalle, and de-

Digitized by Google

stroyed above a hundred sail of shipping, together with several magazines; but though it was intended to effect a landing, the idea was abandoned, and Howe proceeded to reconnoitre for a less dangerous spot. With this view he arrived before Cherbourg, and was actively engaged in his designs, when the weather changed so unfavourably, that his operations were interrupted, and he was soon after compelled to return home for want of provisions.

Such, however, was the satisfaction excited by the manner in which this expedition was conducted, that a second one was immediately fitted out, and Howe again sailed with the command of it from St. Helens, on the 1st of August, in the same year. On the evening of the 6th, he once more came into anchor in the bay of Cherbourg, and upon the next day brought the fleet up into the harbour of Maris, about two leagues from the town. There the troops were safely landed, and the fortifications carried with comparative ease. Twenty pieces of brass cannon were removed on board the fleet; upwards of two hundred iron bombs and mortar pieces were effectually destroyed; twenty-seven sail of shipping found in the harbour were shattered or sunk, and after levying a small contribution upon the town, the soldiers reembarked, and the fleet weighed anchor. The month had not concluded, when Howe again appeared successful on his native shores; and was, without delay, ordered back to sea, and directed to keep the French coast in a continued state of alarm by making descents wherever, and whenever, place and time favoured his views. St. Maloes immediately became the main object of his attack; and, accordingly, the squadron anchored two leagues westward of the town, in the bay of St. Lunaire, where the troops were landed. A deliberation which ought to have taken place before, was then held by the military commanders, in which the practicability of an assault was discussed, and almost immediately decided to be a measure hopeless of fortune. To add to the distress of this precipitancy, it was found that the troops could not regain the ships without considerable difficulty, as well as danger, and they were in consequence marched over land to the bay of St. Cas, whither Lord Howe repaired with the squadron. But the French poured after the retiring infantry in numbers, and the preparations for gaining the fleet no sooner began, than a

Digitized by Google

desperate fire was opened upon the defenceless boats as they advanced to the shore, while a violent attack was made upon the soldiery, then only intent upon escaping. The carnage was dreadful, and the greatest resolution was necessary to support the sailors in their attempts to reach the land, and preserve the troops in order upon it. In the midst of this scene Howe ordered his own barge, in which he stood erect, to be rowed through the thickest of the cannonade; and, thus conspicuous, exhorted the men, by his voice and attitude. Time after time his barge was seen to touch the land, at the greatest peril and risk, and receive as many as could possibly be contained in it, while the havoc continued with a power so fatal, that of the little crews, twenty in number, appointed to man each boat, no less than ten, twelve, and in some cases sixteen, fell dead, at a venture, from their oars. In this undertaking the fleet suffered most; the military were conveyed on board with a loss comparatively trifling, after which the season of the year compelled a return to England.

The gallant death of his brother, whose fate supplied the matter of the preceding note, left the subject of this sketch heir to the family title of Lord Viscount Howe, with which he was appointed Colonel of the Chatham Division of Marines, in 1760. Thus fully possessed of the confidence of the ministry, and the approbation of the public, employment on board the fleet, and official engagements at home, fully show that as his merit was appreciated, so was it rewarded. For some succeeding years the opportunities of brilliant or active enterprise were, therefore, scanty in the extreme, and a detail of Lord Howe's naval career during the interval, can only be dry and valueless. His appointments on shore, however, were of greater importance at this period, for we find him elevated to a seat at the board of the Admiralty, in August, 1763, and only removed from it after a lapse of two years, in order to fill the more advantageous post of Treasurer to the Navy. His promotion to the Rear-admiralship of the Blue, in 1770, compelled him to resign this situation, as well as his colonelcy of Marines, after which he sailed into the Mediterranean with the rank of Commander-in-chief of that station. But the peaceful circumstances of the time made the service merely honorary. Returning to England, in 1775, his Lordship was advanced to the rank of Rear-admiral of the White,

Digitized by Google

and elected Member of Parliament for Dartmouth, and, before the year closed, appointed Vice-admiral of the Blue.

Soon after this promotion, Lord Howe was appointed to a service more critical and important than any he had hitherto filled. This was the command of his Majesty's ships on the American station, when the war on that continent broke out in 1776. Arrived at Halifax, with his flag hoisted on board the Eagle, of 64 guns, the operations of the fleet became subordinate, and consequently uninteresting: thus all enumeration of the transactions that ensued is omitted, inasmuch as nothing striking can be added to the brief record that the reduction of New York, Rhode Island, Philadelphia, &c. were convincing proofs that the military were warmly supported by the navy, and that the zeal and activity of the Admiral were eminently conducive to every success that was obtained. In the year 1778, France became a party to the hostilities, and dispatched the Count d'Estaing with a considerable force of battle ships, admirably equipped, and most powerfully manned, to assist the hostile operations of the revolutionists. Howe was but ill prepared to contend with such an enemy; his vessels had been long at sea, and were much shattered by service; his men were greatly reduced in numbers and strength, as well by the chances as the toils of their profession; and above all, no one ship under his flag was equal in tonnage or size to those of his adversary. Yet, such was the irresolution of the Frenchman, such his consciousness of the celebrity which Howe possessed, or so great his terror of the British navy in general, that, notwithstanding advantages palpably superior, he remained for several days inactive, and when he did begin to act, was unable to discompose the defensive arrangements so judiciously made by his opponent. The campaign proceeded, but no engagement took place between the fleets, and the conduct of Lord Howe was thenceforward exclusively directed to the study of baffling the designs of the French admiral, a task which, considering the vexatious obstacles under which he laboured, he must be admitted to have effected with decided credit. As the season drew towards a close, Admiral Byron arrived from England with reinforcements, and Lord Howe resigning to him the chief command, returned to England and struck his flag.

Digitized by Google

Political movements now interfered to cut off this able commander from the service of his country, and thus he lived in retirement, in consequence of the conflict of state parties, until the spring of 1782, when his merits were properly acknowledged by his elevation to the peerage of England, with the title of Viscount Howe, of Langar, in the county of Nottingham. Immediately after this distinction, he received his appointment to the head of the channel fleet, which was destined to relieve Gibraltar* from

* It was while the fleet was mustering for this important service, at Spithead, that the Royal George, of 120 guns, was upset, and sunk by a squall, in which her commander, ADMIRAL KEMPENFELT, with the majority of her crew, were drowned. The fate of the Admiral is commemorated by a tablet in the Chapel of St. John the Evangelist, in Westminster Abbey, on which Bacon, the Royal Academician, has sketched a ship sinking, and the figure of a man ascending to an angel in heaven: some notice of his life is therefore necessary.——Richard Kempenfelt, Rear-admiral of the Blue, was born at Westminster, in October, 1718. His father, a native of Sweden, held the rank of Lieutenant-governor of Jersey, during the reign of George the I. and is entitled to more particular memory as the original of Addison's 'Captain Sentry,' in the second number of the Spectator. Young Kempenfelt became a midshipman in the tenth year of his age, received a Lieutenant's commission on the 14th of January, 1741, and was made a master and commander in 1756. During the following year, he was appointed to the Eliza, of 64 guns, in which he distinguished himself greatly in the East Indies, first during the action which took place between Commodore Steevens and the Count D'Aché, in 1758, and soon after in convoying, with marked prudence and complete success, some troops to the relief of Madras, when besieged by the French under Count Lally. Upon the death of Commodore Steevens, he became Admiral's Captain to his successor, Sir Charles Cornish, and usurped a signal part at the well-known siege of Manilla, for which he received a local promotion from Sir William Draper. After several unimportant changes from ship to ship, he was nominated to the charge of a squadron, which was ordered to intercept a French fleet, sailing out of Brest in 1781 to reinforce the Count de Grasse, in the West Indies. Unfortunately, however, for his first hopes, the French were discovered to be so much his superiors, not only in the number, but in the weight of their ships, that he dared place no confidence on the issue of a regular battle. Taking advantage, therefore, of the weather-gage, he sailed along the enemy in line of battle abreast, until their van, by a lucky chance, happened to shoot considerably a-head of their rear, and expose a large convoy to faint protection. At that conjuncture, Kempenfelt bore up a-head in full order of battle, cut off the whole convoy, amounting to fifteen vessels, sunk four

Digitized by Google

the menaces of a severe siege. Unfurling his flag on board the Victory, he entered the Streights of the Mediterranean with thirty-four sail of the line, on the 11th of October. This force, though formidable, as the nature of the service required, was yet inferior to the combined armaments of France and Spain, which amounted to 46 sail of the line, and lay before the British to dispute their entrance into the bay. Howe lost no time in hastening the completion of an object, upon the issue of which the interests of his country were so imminently at stake, and therefore, on the very day of his arrival, made an effectual disposition of his fleet. He directed one small squadron to run the store ships directly under the guns of the fortress, while with the remaining force he diverted the strength of the enemy by a series of the boldest manœuvres. Never was an object completed with a more masterly facility: the French were baffled in every attempt, and dared in vain to battle; the different squadrons were safely detached to their important destinations, and the hopes of England were most happily fulfilled. Returned in glory from this expedition, Howe landed at Portsmouth in the following month of November, and, in January 1783, was appointed a Lord of the Admiralty; an honour which he resigned to Lord Keppel in the April ensuing, but again resumed in the December of the same year. In 1787 he was made Admiral of the White, and in the year after quitted his station at the Ad-

frigates, and then towed his prizes into Portsmouth, full in the teeth of his adversary, whom he honoured with a running fight the whole way. Preferred to the Royal George in the spring of 1782, he sailed on a cruise after the French West India Fleet, as second-in-command to Admiral Barrington, and had a share in the honours of capturing two line of battle ships and four trans[illegible] As soon as preparations were made for the relief of Gibraltar, the Royal George was ordered upon the Mediterranean station, but being somewhat leaky, it was determined to caulk her as she lay at anchor. Accordingly, on the 29th of August, the weather being fair, and the wind moderate, she was heeled on her side, until the workmen reached the leak. Their labours were nearly finished, when a squall took the uplifted side, while the crew were at dinner, and the lower deck holes to leeward having been unaccountably left open, they sucked in the sea in torrents, and in less than eight minutes, the noblest vessel in the fleet was sunk. So rapid was her descent, that not a signal of distress was made; of 1200 persons who happened to be on board, 900 perished, and two smaller vessels were swallowed up in the immense vortex thus created.

Digitized by Google

miralty for the last time. He was then created an Earl of Great Britain, with which title he lived in domestic quiet until hostilities again broke out, and war was declared against the French Republic in 1793.

At this important moment, the arduous distinction of commanding the Channel fleet was allotted to his lordship, and powers more ample than it had been at all common to bestow upon any commander, were committed to the trust of his prudence. A period soon arrived which was to prove his talents by exploits still more dazzling, and crown his titles with still greater lustre. Sailing off Torbay in the month of May, 1794, he received intelligence that the Republican fleet had put to sea, and immediately commencing a pursuit, he discovered them on the morning lying to the windward, at a distance of about 170 leagues off Ushant. As soon as the British were perceived, the enemy bore down upon them, and began to form in order of battle; and accordingly Howe hoisted the signal for a general engagement. Day, however, had nearly closed, when Admiral Pasley, in the Bellerophon, came in contact with a three-decker of the enemy, and commenced a resolute attack upon her, which was returned with a vigour so firm, that he was soon obliged to fall to the leeward disabled. The Audacious, however, sailed up at the moment, and continued the fight, until the enemy's mizen mast fell overboard, and her lower yards and topsails were shot away, when, putting before the wind, she was suffered to escape without opposition, in consequence of the injury the Audacious had received.

The morning of the 29th dawned upon the two fleets, and [illegible] made a signal to pass through the French line. This notice, however, did not appear to be perfectly understood by his foremost ships; and impatient to close, he determined to break through the French himself. Next to his own ship, which was the Queen Charlotte, the Bellerophon tacked, and, after some fruitless endeavours to follow the example, at last nobly penetrated through, sweeping down the top-masts and lower yards of her opponent's ship with a broadside, on one side, while, at the same moment, she also raked another to the leeward. Similar movements were unsuccessfully attempted by the Leviathan and other ships, when a fog set in, which lasted until the

Digitized by Google

31st instant, and prevented all farther engagement during that interval.

At five o'clock on the morning of the 1st of June,* both fleets appeared to each other drawn up in battle array; the signals to bear down were given at half-past seven, and in a short time the action became general. The French awaited the attack with marked

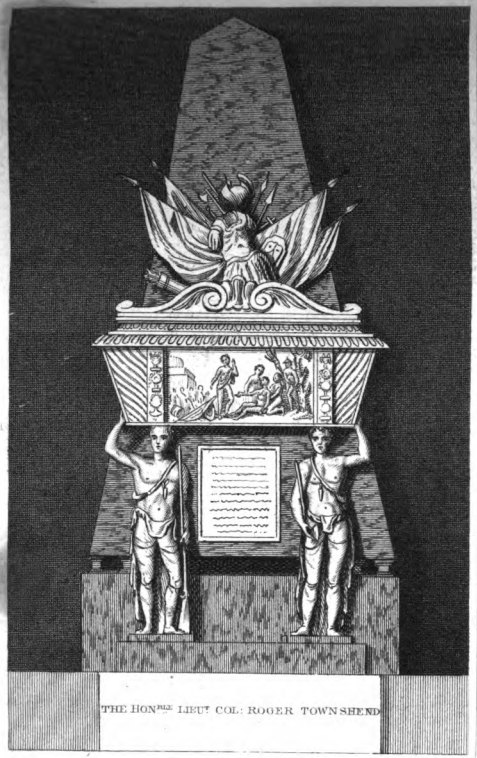
* One commanding officer fell in this action, and two others [illegible] of the wounds they received while it endured:—These were Captains Montague, Harvey, and Hutt. They are all three commemorated in the north aisle of Westminster Abbey: Montague by himself, but Harvey and Hutt jointly. The former memorial adjoins the great western entrance, and introduces a large statue of the Captain leaning on his sword, with a figure of Victory weaving a wreath of laurel above his head. The pedestal column, wrought into alto-relievo, with a representation [illegible] in front, and a groupage of prisoners behind. It is guarded [illegible] stretched at their ease in the full size of life, but is heavily ex[illegible] offers little in the design to attract the attention. The inscription follows:—

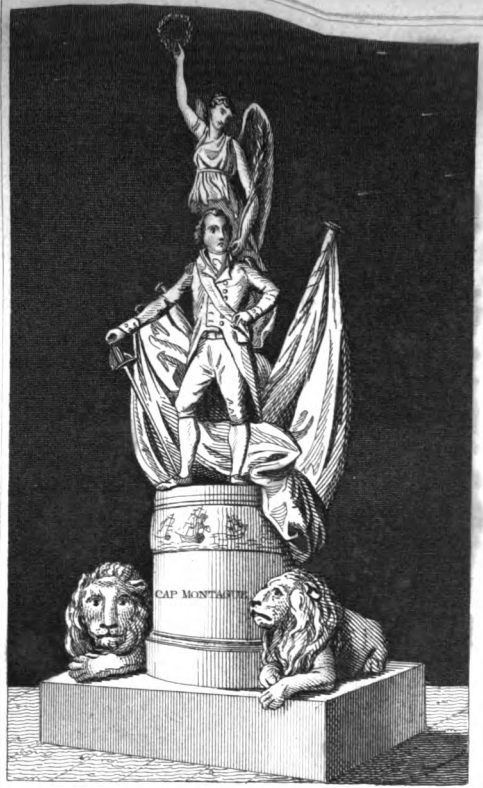
Erected at the Public Expense
To the Memory of
James Montagu,
Who was killed on board the Montagu,
Which he gallantly commanded
In the Memorable Victory over
The French off Brest,
On the 1st of June, 1794,
In the forty-second year of his age,
And twenty-eighth of his service.

The other monument is placed high up, in the recess of a window, composed of two large figures, Britannia and Fame, reclining round a [illegible] upon which are engraved profiles of the deceased captains, subscribed [illegible] their names. It is the work of Bacon, junior, but reflects no credit [illegible] his art, for the design is stupid and the labour ungracious. The epitaph [illegible] briefly this:—

Sacred
To
J. Harvey,
And J. Hutt,
Captains of the Brunswick and the Queen,

Digitized by Google





LONDON.
Published by John Williams 44 Piternoster Row.
Sep. 1827.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

resolution, and one tremendous cannonade raged from van to rear. Every ship was desperately engaged with an opponent, and Earl Howe fought the French Admiral Villaret Joyeuse, who sailed on board the Montague, of 120 guns. Thus awfully sustained, the vigour of the contest endured for two hours, when the French Admiral bore away, and was followed, in great confusion, by every vessel in his fleet which could make sail. Those that were disabled by the fire of this short but decisive battle, were abandoned to the mercy of the British, who made capture of seven vessels of the line, and, as soon as the smoke cleared away, saw another sink. The force of the French consisted of 26, while that of the English amounted to 25 sail of the line; and the loss of the latter was 281 killed, and 781 wounded; while the damage on board the seven ships captured, alone, reached the number of 690 killed and 790 wounded.

On the morning of the 13th instant Earl Howe was seen with his prizes in the offing near Portsmouth: he landed during the day, and received the applauses of a crowded populace, and the military honours of the fort and garrison. In the course of the same month, the King, Queen, and Royal Family, proceeded in their state barges, to pay him a visit on board the Queen Charlotte, where his Majesty held a naval levee, and, in testimony of his congratulatory approbation, presented the conquering Admiral with a sword studded to the hilt with diamonds, and valued at the sum of three thousand guineas. In acknowledging the graciousness of his sovereign upon this occasion, Howe gave another striking proof of the generous modesty of the British sailor, by turning towards his crew when he had to return thanks, and nobly exclaiming—'*'Twas not I, but these brave fellows, that gained the victory.*' Arrived in London, his lordship next enjoyed the satisfaction of receiving the thanks of both Houses of Parliament, and the Common Council of London, who presented him with the freedom of the city in a gold snuff-box.

Who fell gloriously, in the Memorable Victory
Obtained off Brest, on the 1st of June, MDCCXCIV.

This Monument was erected at the Public Expense
As an Honourable Testimony of their Public Services.

Digitized by Google

He continued to hold the command of the Channel fleet until the month of May, 1795, when the feeble state of his health compelled him to strike his flag. He resumed the duties of a command, however, during the following year, and sailed at the head of the western squadron; but no opportunities of action, and no unusual difficulties, presented themselves before him. At home however, the length and merit of his services were noticed by his appointment to be General of the Marines, and Admiral of the Fleet; and upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the Order of the Garter, he was still farther honoured by being enrolled amongst the knights under its ensign. Though now retired to domestic life, and formally separated from the cares of office, still another opportunity occurred in which his old age was to be powerfully employed in the service of his country. In 1797, a desperate mutiny broke out on board the fleet; every officer was thrown into chains, the crews menaced the most awful measures, and the greatest alarm spread over the nation. In this emergency, Earl Howe was again called upon by the Government; and nothing could be more consistent than to require that great man to compose internal dissensions, who had so often and so successfully overcome foreign hostility. Beloved by the fleet, he had no fear from their exasperation, and consequently proceeded calmly on board of the revolted vessels at the very moment that they were preparing to hang their Admiral and Captains up by the yard-arm. Unarmed he went amongst them, and the intrepidity of the action roused every generous feeling which distinguishes the British sailor, and he was received with shouts of congratulation. His experience had already suggested to the ministry the most prudent measures to be adopted, for the purposes of mutual conciliation, and his personal address here succeeded in softening down every symptom of exasperation. In short the fleet he had so repeatedly conducted to glory on the sea, he now led back in loyalty to the land. The popularity of this exemplary conduct he lived not long to enjoy; a mortal illness seized upon his debilitated frame, in the month of September, 1799, and he expired full of glory, and fondly surnamed the Father of the Fleet, leaving two daughters to deplore his loss.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

LONDON.

Published by John Williams. 44. Pater Noster Row. January 1826.

Digitized by Google

SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D.

Dr. Johnson's monument stands against the north-east pier in St. Paul's Cathedral: it is a single statue, in an attitute of deep thought, chiselled with strong freedom, but no very pleasing effect. The costume is Roman and inappropriate; it was erected in 1775; and is the work of John Bacon, the sculptor, who received 1100 guineas for the labour. Dr. Parr wrote the Latin epitaph, of which the following is a translation:—

* To Samuel Johnson,
A Grammarian and Critic
Most learnedly read in the English authors,
A Poet truly admirable
For the brilliancy of his periods, and the weight of his words,
The gravest preceptor of virtue,
And a singular example of the best of men;
Who lived 75 years, two months, and fourteen days,
Died on the Ides of December, in the year of Christ, 1784,

* A. ☧ Ω.
Samueli Johnson,
Grammatico. Et. Critico
Scriptorum. Anglicorum. Litterate. Perito,
Poetæ. Luminibus. Sententiorum
Et. Ponderibus. Verborum. Admirabili,
Magistro. Virtutis. Gravissimo,
Homini. Optimo. Et. Singularis. Exempli,
Qui. Vixit. Ann. Lxxv. Mens. ii. Dieb. xiiii.
Decessit. Idib. Decembr. Ann. Christ. clo. locc. lxxxiiii

Digitized by Google

And was buried in the Church of St. Peter, in Westminster,
On the 13th kalend of January, in the year of Christ, 1785;
His friends and literary companions
By a pecuniary subscription
Provided the erection of this monument.

Samuel Johnson was born on the 7th of September, 1709, at Litchfield, in which place his father was a bookseller, and must have enjoyed reputation, for he more than once filled the duties of Chief Magistrate. At eight years of age young Sam entered the grammar-school of his native city, then taught by Mr. Hunter, and at fifteen, after an interval spent under the tuition of Cornelius Ford, a cousin and a minister, he passed into Mr. Wentworth's academy, at Stourbridge, for two years. Returning home he stopped with his father for two years, during which he was so far initiated into business, that he made a good humoured boast, when an old man, of being able to bind a book. It is related that the progress of his acquirements up to this period of his life was slow, but that his memory was admirably retentive, and his investigation deep; so that whatever he undertook to acquire he mastered thoroughly.

In 1728, Mr. Corbet, a country gentleman of fortune in the neighbourhood, sent the future critic to Pembroke College, Oxford, as a companion for his son; but the boon eventually proved defective, and led to much personal degradation. His first disgust was provoked by Mr. Jourden, the tutor he was appointed to, a man of narrow mind, and poor information, faults rendered still more disagreeable by a bad temper. Johnson soon detected his deficiences, and naturally despised him as a superior; and no sooner was he exposed to the sallies of his humour, than he retorted even with insolence. It was to these as the more probable circumstances, that Johnson's biographers should have attributed that negligence of study and contempt of discipline for which he soon

Sepult. In. Æd. Sanct. Petr. Westmonasterieus.
Xiil. Kal. Janvar. Ann. Christ. clɔ. lɔcc. lxxxv.
Amici. Et. Sodales. Literarii
Pecunia. Conlata
H. M. Faciend. Curaver.

Digitized by Google

became censurable. Indeed it is hard to think what other impressions could have been made in such a case upon a mind vigorous and expansive as his must have been at the age of twenty. This adversity of things was still farther increased after the lapse of two years, by young Corbet's departure from the University, an event which subjected him to severer trials, inasmuch as his pecuniary resources were almost exclusively drawn from this friend, and entirely ceased with his absence. There are few examples of more injurious cruelty to be found in life, than where some hasty impulse of ill-weighed generosity excites a person of wealth to exalt a youth from his natural sphere, because, at a first view, it does not appear provided with those essentials which may be the best and most favourable for the developement of his budding talents. To work any early improvement in the station of another, without maturely considering how the means are to come which will be imperatively required for the enlarged views and increased comforts that must ensue, is a miserable piece of imprudence; and when the strong appetite for them is once confirmed, and a second nature established, then to throw back the grieving object of giddy patronage upon all the wants and vexations of primitive poverty, rendered doubly galling by the transitory experience he has had of better things, and the memory of kinder hopes, is a social outrage almost involving moral assassination. Yet such was the extreme of embarrassment, both in feelings and facts, to which Johnson was now reduced. It was out of his father's power to make him any thing like a competent allowance for his support, so that after struggling through another year, in debt to his tutor, and so poor that he generally lounged about with his feet worn through his shoes and stockings, and his thread-bare coat ripping into pieces; he started from the seat of religion and learning in all the recklessness of broken fortune, and returned to the home from which he had been so wretchedly diverted.

In 1731 his father died, and he inherited a sum of 20*l*. Thus straitened, he attempted the office of usher in the grammar-school at Market Bosworth, but was soon compelled, by the insolence of the patron, to throw it up in disgust. About this juncture the invitation of an old schoolfellow, Mr. Hector, who was practising as a surgeon at Birmingham, led him to that busy

Digitized by Google

town, in which, for the modest reward of *5l.*, he brought forward his maiden production in literature—'A Voyage to Abyssinia, by the Portuguese Jesuit Jerome Lobo,' translated from the French. The effort was occasioned by some literary contributions which he casually tendered to a newspaper printed by the occupier of the house in which he lodged with his friend; but neither in that longer nor these shorter essays did there appear any thing very promising or remarkable.

It was also during this stay at Birmingham that Johnson became a married man; he has himself described it solely as a *love match upon both sides;* but his biographers represent it mainly as a connexion of interest, because the lady was ordinary, double his age, and endowed with 800*l.* However the truth may lie between these points, one matter of praise ought not to be forgotten: Johnson never treated his wife but with respect; never spoke of her but with regard; and both in her epitaph and his various writings has given many instances of sincere affection. Her name was Porter, and she was the widow of a mercer.

With this capital, Johnson reverted to what seems to have been with him, as with many other literary men of chequered fortunes, a favourite plan, the establishment of a classical academy. For this purpose he fitted up a large house at Edial, near Lichfield; but before the year closed upon him he was obliged to desert it in utter want of scholars. From this disappointment he ventured to take refuge in the vast expectations of a journey to London, at which place he eventually arrived, in March 1737, accompanied by one of only three pupils whom he is now known to have had—the celebrated Garrick.

The views of these memorable adventurers were naturally different in their destinations: Johnson hoped for wealth and reputation from the performance of his 'Irene,' a tragedy, in the composition of which he was already far advanced, while Garrick, though intended for the profession of the law, rapidly usurped both the one and the other of these blessings, even where his friend and master failed to acquire them—the stage. Few, indeed, are the careers of fortune and fame upon record, so quick in rising, and so bright when risen, as that happy actor embraced; while, on the contrary, no pressure of penury and sufferance can be more poignant than the one recited in the

Digitized by Google

story of our great grammarian's distresses after this occurrence. Fleetwood, then manager of the theatre in Drury-lane, rejected his play, and there his first hope was blasted. Alone, amidst the vast multitude, and poor amidst all the superfluities of London, he wandered about in so destitute a state during the day, and at night, when the rain chilled, and the frost bit, was forced to take refuge with the prostitute under an archway; or, if the weather was milder, to stroll about the squares in want of a sixpence with which to pay for the shelter of a roof. Such was the misery, revolting to dwell on and horrible to describe, of the great Samuel Johnson, a scholar justly revered as one of the brightest ornaments to the literature of his country. If such a man had to bear a fate so hard, who may murmur at the chances of life! One solace, indeed, occurred to him in this abandoned state, the solace of companionship—the cultivated, but dissolute Savage, was the partner of his midnight rambles, and the sharer of a common adversity.

Johnson's first employment in London was obtained from Cave, the publisher of that great parent of our periodicals, the 'Gentleman's Magazine,' to which he soon became a constant contributor. What advantages he received for his labours has never been ascertained: they commenced in 1738, continued until 1744, and mainly comprised Parliamentary debates and biographical essays. In all probability the first money he received worth mentioning, was a sum of forty-nine guineas for a translation of Courayer's History of the Council of Trent—a work which Cave was deterred from publishing, by some proposals which were issued at the same time for a rival undertaking; and what was a strange coincidence, so little was he satisfied with his prospects about this time, that he endeavoured to obtain the mastership of the Free School in the country, worth only 60*l.* a year. But the statutes of the foundation, unfortunately, limited the presentation to an M.A., and he was obliged to confine his aspirations to the precarious labours of an author. He remained without any opportunity of making his merits in any degree generally known until May, 1738, when, after repeated refusals from the booksellers to purchase it at any price, Dodsley had judgment enough to give him ten guineas for 'London,' a poem, in imitation of the third satire of Juvenal. That was an effort

Digitized by Google

which amply justified the expectations of the publisher, and ultimately did no small service to the reputation of the author. After an interval, he followed it up with 'The Vanity of Human Wishes,' a similar paraphrase on the tenth satire of Juvenal, which appeared, with equal success, in 1749: the former poem showed greater skill in adaptation, but the latter has the praise of finer feeling. It was also during the year 1738, that the favourite of his early hopes, the tragedy of 'Irene,' came before the public, and failed to please them, notwithstanding all the influence and support of Garrick, who brought it forward at the theatre in Drury Lane, of which he was already a patentee. In sentiment and diction it is moving and elevated, but it wants dramatic interest and events, and on that account but feebly excites the sympathies of an audience. Johnson was greatly chagrined at its fate. His next production, however, made ample amends for his disappointment. The Life of Savage, his partner in the sorrows of adversity, and his friend up to the dawning of gentler prospects, is pathetically told, with an energy of periods, which fully developed the peculiar strength of his powers, and a precision of thought which created the highest opinion of his learning and penetration of character.

It was from the vicissitudes of his past life, in all probability, and the great variety of subjects he had been tempted to address his mind to, just as to so many speculations for subsistence, that Johnson was spurred to write the 'Rambler,' at the rate of two papers a week, on the 20th of March, 1750. Thirty-seven years had elapsed since the joint labours of Steele and Addison delighted the town with essays of the same sort; attempts had been repeatedly made to emulate their popularity, more particularly by the 'Craftsman,' 'Common Sense,' the 'Champion,' &c.; and the comparative failure of those undertakings, could only serve to damp the courage of a less resolute projector. But Johnson was a dogmatist even in courage, and he persisted in this labour. The reception not only of the 'Rambler,' but of the 'Idler,' which ensued in April, 1760, as a sort of companion or counterpart, far from rivalled the prosperity of the celebrated papers they professed to imitate. Of the two, the 'Rambler' is unquestionably the nobler performance, and is eminently distinguished by all the energetic qualities that distinguished Johnson's

Digitized by Google

style. Nevertheless it cannot be ranked upon equality with the 'Spectator,' &c. His style is universally lofty or serious; theirs is always simple and amusing; both instruct, and both improve: but the one had the gravity of a master, the other the lightness of a drawing-room companion: he never approached wit, but he fell upon satire, and pronounced it with a frown; whenever they drew near it, they confined it to pleasantry, and uttered it with a smile. In short, Johnson was unfortunate, and never shook off the moodiness of neglect; while Addison was always complacent, because he scarcely ever found the world rough; and Steele was always happy in spite of adversity itself.

The morbid sense of Johnson's feelings in religious matters is well known; that divine belief which soothes most hearts with hope, only tore his bosom with fears; he seems to have dreaded far more than he confided; and dwelt deeper on the threats than on the promises of his Bible. To these melancholy peculiarities of temper must be attributed the extreme shock he received upon the death of his wife, in 1752: his affliction was violent, and the recollection of it lasted so long, that no event of his life can be conceived so formidably affecting as this occurrence proved.

In the month of May, 1754, appeared 'A Dictionary of the English Language, with a History of the Language, and an English Grammar,' 2 vols. folio. The project for this great work, which is said to have been originally started by Dodsley, was digested in 1746, and announced to the public during the following year, in a pamphlet, entitled, 'The Plan of a *Dictionary* of the English Language, addressed to the Right Honourable Philip Dormer, Earl of Chesterfield, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.' To every appearance all the honours which a dedication of the work itself could give, were applied in this address; it was nevertheless printed without any dedication at all, and the doctor assigned his reasons for his conduct in a letter to the Earl, which describes his feelings so admirably, and has been so generally admired, that its insertion seems unavoidable.

'My Lord,

'I have been lately informed by the proprietor of the 'World,'

Digitized by Google

that two papers, in which my Dictionary is recommended to the public, were written by your lordship. To be so distinguished is an honour, which, being very little accustomed to favours from the great, I know not well how to receive, or in what terms to acknowledge.

'When upon some slight encouragement I first visited your lordship, I was overpowered, like the rest of mankind, by the enchantment of your address, and could not forbear to wish that I might boast myself, *le vainqueur du vainqueur de la terre*, that I might obtain the regard for which I saw the world contending; but I found my attendance so little encouraged, that neither pride nor modesty would allow me to continue it. When I had once addressed your lordship in public, I had exhausted all the art of pleasing which a retired and uncourtly scholar can possess. I had done all that I could, and no man is well pleased to have his all neglected, be it ever so little.

'Seven years, my Lord, have now passed since I waited in your outward rooms, or was repulsed from your door; during which time I have been pushing on my work through difficulties of which it is useless to complain, and have brought it at last to the verge of publication, without one act of assistance, one word of encouragement, or one smile of favour. Such treatment I did not expect, for I never had a patron before.

'The Shepherd, in Virgil, grew at last acquainted with love, and found him a native of the rocks.

'Is not a patron, my Lord, one who looks with unconcern on a man struggling for life in the water, and when he has reached ground encumbers him with help? The notice you have been pleased to take of my work, had it been early, had been kind; but it has been delayed until I am indifferent and cannot enjoy it—till I am solitary and cannot impart it—till I am known and do not want it. I hope it is no very cynical asperity not to confess obligations where no benefit has been received, or to be unwilling that the public should consider me as owing that to a patron which Providence has enabled me to do for myself.

'Having carried on my labour thus far with so little obligation to any favourer of learning, I shall not be disappointed, though I should conclude it, if less be possible, with less; for I have not

Digitized by Google

long awakened from that dream of hope, in which I once boasted myself with so much obligation,

My Lord, yours, &c. &c.

SAMUEL JOHNSON.'

Johnson's Dictionary was his greatest labour, so great, indeed, and by that consequence so universally appreciated, that any writer may at this time be spared the trouble of describing either the magnitude of the task, or the acclamations which crowned its appearance. Every scholar knows that praises were showered upon it, and honours heaped upon him; though it ought never to be forgotten that reward was not bestowed as readily or as plentifully as the eminent success of the work amply deserved, On the contrary, it is never to be repeated but with additional shame and indignation, that Johnson had still to struggle so much with adversity, that almost immediately after this splendid donation to the literature of his country, he was under an arrest for the moderate sum of five pounds and eighteen shillings. It is not to be concealed, however, that his price for the Dictionary was, altogether, 1500*l.* but the sum was paid in small fractional parts, which were consumed as they were received, and to no small extent disbursed among clerks and amanuensis.

'Rasselas,' the next of his works in order of composition, produced him 125*l.* and was fanned from the press by a full gale of popularity and praise; for though his Dictionary may be better known, Rasselas is of all his works that one which is oftenest read. In style and feeling it is eminently Johnsonian; perhaps no other man has been so successful in transfusing into his pages every sentiment, habit, and turn of thought, as well as of word, for which he was most distinguished; and thus making his book a faithful black-letter portrait of himself. Rasselas literally abounds with the man. The purpose for which it was published, and the circumstances under which it was composed, are also deserving of record. His mother had died leaving some little debts unarranged, and Johnson, unable either to discharge them, or even bury her, set himself hastily to work, and finished this beautiful tale during the evenings of one week. The loose portions were sent off to the press every night, as he completed the chapters; and this eloquent treatise of morality, rich in imagery, and

Digitized by Google

splendid in language, was thus hurried before the criticism of the world without a single opportunity for revision or improvement.

In the year 1762, Government at length took notice of his unprovided situation, and put his name on the pension list for 300*l.* a year. Gratitude for this benefit led him afterwards to publish two or three political pamphlets—tasks far from irksome to his feelings, inasmuch as no servant of the crown could be more sincerely attached to those high principles in Church and State, which were so warmly advocated in that day. They were remarkable for that force of style and superiority of observation which are to be found in every thing he has written; but as to any thing else, his was the cause of intolerance, and its impolicy was proved in the loss of America. Johnson's pamphlets were soon forgotten in the general shame of the nation; and no man is likely to revive their pretensions to favour, inasmuch as no one can desire declamation against facts.

Johnson's circumstances no sooner became easy, than he rose rapidly in authority as a man of letters. Ere long almost every adventurer in the fertile field was glad to be ushered from the press with some favourable remark from the critical Doctor; and of those few who were confident enough not to seek his praise, there was, perhaps, not one who did not dread his censure. But, perhaps, the event, above all others, which contributed to exalt him as it were upon a throne of superiority from which to govern the republic of British literature, was the institution of the celebrated literary club, over which, by a sort of tacit compliment, he was allowed to act as president. The most eminent men in politics as well as learning composed its members; among whom, Burke, Fox, and Sheridan, took the lead, ably supported by Goldsmith, Gibbon, and Sir Joshua Reynolds. To have enjoyed the voluntary deference of such a body of men was honour enough for the course of any life; but Johnson lived for other distinctions. George the III. took occasion to seek an interview with him in the library of Buckingham House; and is represented to have been as much pleased with the impressive respect of his subject, as the subject was delighted with the familiar condescension of the monarch.

There remain three other works by Dr. Johnson to be noticed: the first, his edition of Shakspeare, published in 1765; the second, 'A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland,'

Digitized by Google

printed in 1774; and the third, his 'Lives of the Poets,' completed in 1779. Of these performances, the first, perhaps, has not been as extensively patronised as it deserves; while the last has been even more loudly commended than it really merited: the other has been pronounced the most elaborate specimen of his grandiloquence, but it was never very popular. Other commentators on Shakspeare may have established dates and facts upon clearer evidence, instituted more diligent comparisons, and altogether shewn that they laboured deeper in the stream, but by no one has the beauties of character been so admirably illustrated, or the threads of plot so ably developed, as by Dr. Johnson: his preface is a master-piece of composition. But when he undertook the 'Lives of the Poets,' he was saturated with writing: the work consequently proceeded slowly, was finished in hurried fits of irksomeness, and is more an instance of extraordinary memory than just investigation. Strong antipathies pervert the honours of several performances recorded in it; and the style is less classical and connected than ought to have marked the summit of his powers—altogether, perhaps, it is more an impetuous and forcible delivery of opinions, than a polished composition of criticism.

In 1783 Johnson suffered a dangerous attack of paralysis, and though the robustness of his constitution overcame the disorder, yet a train of severe afflictions resulted from it, which seated themselves upon his health. He expressed a wish to visit Italy, and his friends exerted themselves to procure an addition to his pension, that he might travel with ease. But the application was unsuccessful: he struggled on with complicated disorders until, after several violent struggles, they triumphed over his life at the period already mentioned in his epitaph. His death was lamented with that concern to which the estimation he was held in, strongly entitled his memory; and his corpse was followed to a grave, under the statue of Shakspeare, in Westminster Abbey, by a train of mourners, talented, numerous, and respectable, as the wide circle of his gifted admirers naturally supplied.

Johnson was a tall man, with large bony limbs, a strength more than common, and in early life an activity far superior to the promise of such a form. His face, though naturally well proportioned, was disfigured by scrofula, or King's evil, through which he also lost the sight of one of his eyes in infancy, and was ever

Digitized by Google

after subjected to an affection similar to St. Vitus's dance. The effect which an appearance thus strongly marked was likely to produce, he greatly augmented by his general manner. He was grave in his deportment, yet rude in his address; and possessed a loud voice, which he delivered in a slow deliberate utterance, but with an overbearing impetuosity. Vehemently addicted to argumentation, he was impatient of contradiction, and unmerciful in victory. In Lord Chesterfield's letters to his son, we find him delineated in these terms:—"There is a man whose moral character, deep learning, and superior parts, I acknowledge and respect, but whom it is so impossible for me to love, that I am almost in a fever when I am in his company. His figure, without being deformed, seems made to disgrace or ridicule the common structure of the human body: his legs and arms are never in the position which, according to the situation of his body, they ought to be in, but constantly employed in committing acts of hostility upon the Graces. He throws any where but down his throat, whatever he means to drink, and only mangles what he means to carve. Inattentive to all the regards of social life, he mistimes or misplaces every thing. He disputes with heat, and indiscriminately, mindless of the rank, character, and situation of those with whom he disputes. Absolutely ignorant of the several gradations of familiarity or respect, he is exactly the same to his superiors, his equals, and his inferiors: and therefore, by a necessary consequence, absurd to two of the three. Is it possible to love such a man? No: the utmost I can do for him is to consider him a respectable Hottentot."

This passage was meant for a portrait, but almost amounts to a caricature, and was so nervously provoked, that its traits are to be credited with great caution. Johnson publicly declared that he expected to find Chesterfield a lord amongst wits, but discovered he was only a wit amongst lords. This sarcasm, and the defiance of his letter concerning the Dictionary, must naturally be supposed to have engendered some of the venom which commonly forks retaliation; and, after all, perhaps Goldsmith's opinion came nearest to the truth;—"he had nothing of the bear about him but his skin" *(and growl)*. All those who knew him, and observed his private conduct, concur in stating that his heart was tenderly susceptible of charity, gratitude, and every kind

Digitized by Google

emotion. His purse was ever open to almsgiving, and his house, as far as its convenience permitted, was an asylum for the unhappy, on whom he is reported to have at times expended his income with a greater liberality than the general dictates of prudence could have warranted. Early in life, when his circumstances were very narrow, he received into his household Miss Williams, a lady, blind, destitute, but full of talent, and much attached to his wife, and ever after afforded her that protection which enabled her to support life. The savings of his industry, amounting to 1500*l.*, as he left no relatives, he bequeathed to a black servant, Francis Barber, for whom he had always expressed great consideration, and whom he, in general, treated with the familiarity of an humble friend.

To describe the classical reputation of Dr. Johnson can hardly be necessary, for where is the English reader who does not know that it was supereminent? As a biographer, a critic, a moralist, a philologist, and a novelist, he ranks in the very first class of writers; and in those other branches of literature upon which he adventured, though not with equal distinction, such as poems, tragedy, and political tracts, his merits are uniformly powerful. His 'Journey to the Western Isles of Scotland' is considered to afford the most finished specimen of that grandiloquent style for which he is famous: his 'Lives of the Poets' have perhaps been the most loudly praised of all his productions; but the little novel of 'Rasselas' seems to deserve the greatest popularity, for it is at once masterly and pleasing. The 'Rambler' is one of the strongest bases upon which his fame is supported, the Dictionary exalted him to the unprecedented style of Colossus of our Literature, and the Preface to his edition of Shakspeare is admitted upon all hands to constitute the finest example of critical composition within the ample scope of our language. The mere formal honours with which these noble labours were crowned, consisted of a degree of M.A. procured from the University of Oxford, through the interest of Mr. Warton, to grace the first appearance of his Dictionary; a degree of Doctor of Laws, awarded by a diploma from the University of Dublin, in 1765, *ob egregiam scriptorum elegantiam et utilitatem*, and a similar degree reconferred by the University of Oxford in 1774.

There is no writer in our language whose style has been so

Digitized by Google

enthusiastically imitated, and at the same time so violently censured, as the style of Dr. Johnson. Nervous, yet precise, dignified, and yet subtle, he astonishes by the greatness of his conceptions, delights by the fertility of his illustrations, captivates by the ease of propriety, and charms by the measured falls of musical rotundity. The heaviest charges against him are, that he has innovated upon the pure idiom of the language by an excessive adaptation of sounding Latinisms; that he is rich to satiety, and melodious to sameness. To discuss these points would require an essay of no brief extent; and, after all, the better way, perhaps, would be to read Johnson, and determine the advantages of his style by the effect which it produces. The English is a language so confusedly composed of different tongues, as well modern as antient, that it seems rather inconsistent to condemn a writer for pursuing the means from which our speech has derived its characteristic beauties. The scholar will moreover recollect that a happy renovation of obsolete terms, and a perspicuous introduction of new phrases, is a meritorious feature in composition advised by Horace, and disputed by no commentator.

Such is the foundation of Johnson's fame with posterity; but amongst his cotemporaries, he had another resource for distinction, such as no other man ever availed himself of so powerfully. This was his conversational ability: no man at all approached to an equality with him as a talker. His memory was singularly retentive, his imagination keen, his perception quick and penetrating, and though he read with greater rapidity than system, he had a most extraordinary facility of extemporaneously methodising his thoughts or attainments, however diffusely gathered, or variously retained. From his earliest years he had accustomed himself to such accuracy in the manner in which he expressed himself even upon the commonest occasions, that he at all times delivered himself with a force and elegance that defied rivalry. The confidence of habit, and a didactic style, in which he most rejoiced, imparted such an effect to all he uttered, that Goldsmith declared it was impossible to argue with him; for if his pistol missed fire, like the man in Cibber's play, he knocked you down with the butt end of it.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

LONDON
Published by John Williams, 44. Paternoster Row.
March 1826.

Digitized by Google

SIR WILLIAM JONES.

THE memory of Sir William Jones is preserved in St. Paul's Cathedral, by a good statue from the chisel of Bacon, R.A. which stands against the south-west great pier of the dome. He is represented in an attitude of composition, with a pen in one hand, a scroll in the other, and his right arm supported by some volumes, which are introduced upon a pedestal, hieroglyphically engraved, and are understood to mean the Institutes of Menu. The pedestal is wrought on one side with an insipid allegory of Study and Genius, opening out Oriental Knowledge, and on another with this plain inscription:—

To the Memory
of Sir WILLIAM JONES, Knight,
one of the Judges
of the Supreme Court of Judicature
At Fort William, in Bengal,
This Statue was erected
By the Honourable East India Company,
In Testimony
Of their grateful sense of his Public Services,
Their admiration of his Genius and Learning,
And their respect for his Character
And Virtues.
He died in Bengal, on the 24th April, 1794,
Aged 47.

William Jones, for whom some Cambrian genealogists have traced a descent from Welsh Kings, was born in London, on Michaelmas-eve, 1746. When only three years old, his father

Digitized by Google

died, in the possession of a moderate property, and some reputation as a mathematician. Through this loss the cares of his earliest education devolved upon his mother, a lady of marked sense and virtue, who was the daughter of a cabinet-maker, named Nix, and is commended by her son's biographers for a proficiency in some such unfeminine branches of science, as Algebra, Trigonometry, and the theory of Navigation.

Two serious accidents, however, had nearly deprived her of the honour of rearing an illustrious son: for being left alone one day in a room, he amused himself by scraping the soot from the chimney, and fell into the fire, from which he was only saved after a severe burning, by a servant, whom his cries had alarmed. Soon after this escape, he quarrelled with the maid who was dressing him, and in his peevish struggles fastened one of the hooks of his coat in his eye. A dangerous wound was thus inflicted, which, though healed by the skill of Doctor Mead, left the sight ever after imperfect.

Being placed at Harrow School, in his seventh year, he continued remarkable for application, until, after a sojourn of two years, he had the misfortune to break his thigh-bone in a scholastic scramble. A twelvemonth's suspension of his studies was thus occasioned; but so favourable was the opinion entertained of his ability, that upon his return to school, he was placed in the class to which he would have risen had no interruption impeded his proficiency. Naturally enough he was then far behind his school-fellows; but the deficiency was soon supplied, for his master, Dr. Thackery, flogged him up to par with a severe earnestness, which Jones never ceased to reprobate. In his twelfth year he was promoted to a form in the upper-school; and from that period the peculiar industry of his character, and the various subjects which his talents were able concurrently to embrace, became superiorly manifested. Various anecdotes are told to prove the powerful comprehensibility of his mind; but it must here suffice to observe, that he now translated, of his own accord, the Epistles of Ovid, the Pastorals of Virgil, wrote a dramatic piece on the story of Meleager, which was acted by his companions, and that before his fifteenth year, in which he left the school, he had acquired, by private assiduity, a knowledge of French, Italian, Hebrew, and Arabic; had composed a Greek

Digitized by Google

play entitled Mormon, and a volume of poetry, under the designation of Prolusions. By lucubrations, precocious and elaborate, as these, he grew to be the pride of the place, and was styled the Great Scholar.

In the spring of the year 1764, he matriculated at University College, Oxford, and, in the course of a few months, was unanimously elected a scholar, on one of the four foundations established by Sir Simon Bennet. To his knowledge of languages he next added an acquaintance with the Spanish, Portuguese, and Persian authors, and rendered the Arabian Tales of Galland into the original tongue. In his nineteenth year he became tutor to Lord Althorpe, the eldest son of Earl Spencer, and in 1766 obtained a fellowship at his college. Here it is curious to remark the universality of his ambition; for, not content with the reputation of deep learning, he aspired to excellence in every accomplishment by which a gentleman can be distinguished. He now took regular lessons from the most fashionable dancing and fencing masters in London, and even hired an old pensioner from Chelsea College to teach him the exercise of the broad sword. On these flirting vanities it cannot be interesting to dilate, but the extent to which he carried them may be estimated by the fact, that, during a visit of three weeks, which he made to Spa, in the Netherlands, he consumed part of his time in going over to Aix-la-Chapelle to receive graces from a dancing-master.

After refusing the place of Interpreter of the Eastern languages, which was tendered to him by Lord North, he translated into French, for the King of Denmark, a Persian Manuscript, entitled the 'History of Nadir Shah.' This performance, after the style had been corrected by a native, he published in 1770, with a prefatory 'Treatise on Eastern Poetry.' Continuing his attendance on Lord Althorpe, he conducted him through Harrow School, and had the advantage of accompanying the family in a journey through France, Switzerland, and the South of Italy, in the years 1769 and 1770. At the close of this year he renounced the office of Preceptor, and became a student-at-law in the Temple.

By this time we are assured that Jones's reputation was nearly as extensive as his attainments: he had a vast correspondence with the literary characters of his own country, and foreign na-

Digitized by Google

tions; and, notwithstanding the accumulation of labour thus entailed upon him, he pored over books with his wonted avidity and success. Taking up his degrees of Bachelor and Master of Arts, in due course, he was admitted a Fellow of the Royal Society, and entertained his friends with projects of works, and aspirations of dignities, which, like many others, he never had the perseverance to execute, or the fortune to seize. In 1774, he was called to the bar, and published his 'Commentaries on Asiatic Poetry,' (De Poesi Asiaticâ,) a work on which he had spent eight years in corrections, and which was reviewed with many praises by the learned throughout Europe. Choosing the Oxford Circuit for practice, he began his career as a barrister in the following year, and was almost immediately nominated a Commissioner of Bankrupts—an office which he rather pettishly described as one of great importance, but little emolument.

In 1778 he relapsed into polite letters, and produced a version of the Orations of Isæus, with a prefatory discourse, and notes critical and historical, which was dedicated to Earl Bathurst, and honoured with the approbation of Edmund Burke.

Finding his business now increase with rapidity, he made an abortive attempt to figure as a politician, and signalised his objections to the American War in an Alcaic Ode to Liberty, of which it is enough to observe, that the style is crudely imitated from Horace, and the sentiments are mainly copied from Collins. He started as a candidate for the University of Oxford, at the general election in 1780, but was obliged to resign the contest through want of sufficient support. For the loss of this distinction, he consoled himself by forthwith issuing from the press, in rapid succession, a treatise 'On the Maritime Jurisprudence of the Athenians, illustrated by five speeches of Demosthenes on Commercial Causes;' 'A Dissertation on the Manners of the Arabians before the time of Mahomet, illustrated by a translation of the Seven Arabian Poets;' and 'An Enquiry into the legal Mode of Suppressing Riots, with a Constitutional Plan of future Defence.' These productions were soon followed by an 'Essay on the Law of Bailment;' and a translation of an Arabic Poem, 'On the Mahommedan Law of Succession to the Property of Intestates.' Connected with this epoch of his life, are farther to be mentioned his enrolment into the Society for Constitutional

Digitized by Google

Information; his advocacy of the delusive theme of universal suffrage, and his 'Dialogue between a Farmer and a Country Gentleman, on the Principles of Government,' a party production, for the circulation of which his future father-in-law, Dr. Shipley, the Dean of St. Asaph, was subjected to a government prosecution.

From these fluctuating avocations Jones was finally removed in 1783, by an appointment which, in its contingencies, proved most accordant with his predilections, and subsidiary to his reputation. This was his elevation by Lord Shelburne's ministry to a seat on the judicial bench of Fort William, at Bengal, whither he repaired with the honour of knighthood during the course of the same year. Previous to his departure he married Anna Maria, the daughter of the Dean of St. Asaph, a lady to whom he had for some years paid court, and in whom he found a companion the most devoted to his interest and tender of his happiness. Scarcely had he settled himself at Calcutta, than, associating with the most experienced scholars in the Eastern tongues, he began to study Sanscrit, and projected the plan of a society which was speedily incorporated for the avowed purposes of exploring the literature and antiquities of Asia. Of this body the Presidentship was tendered to Warren Hastings, then Governor-general of India, but by him politely renounced in favour of the founder. For this responsible situation no man was better qualified, and to the prosecution of its objects few enthusiasts could have more profitably bent their exertions. The society commenced its sittings in 1784, and has since continued to labour with signal credit to the members, and instruction to the country. The first volume of its Researches, edited by the President, appeared in 1787; he superintended the publication of two others, and a fourth was ready for press at his death. But one avocation alone was insufficient for the busy mind of Sir William Jones: before a twelvemonth had elapsed he made an excursion into the interior, though suffering under severe illness; and upon his return to the presidency, set on foot a periodical publication entitled the 'Asiatic Miscellany,' to which, for two years, he was a liberal contributor of poems and essays connected with Indian topics.

Thus, sedulously diversifying his time between the cares of his situation, and the varieties of literature, he seized every op-

Digitized by Google

portunity of adding to his information, and supported his health, by short journeys from Calcutta. But the climate had fixed its influence upon his constitution, and the progress of dissolution was gradual but secure. Indifferent, however, to these sufferings, he looked forward with vain confidence to a happy return to England, and in the interval bestowed his leisure upon two undertakings, which were commensurate in difficulty and importance. These were a translation of the 'Ordinances of Menu,' comprising a system of civil and religious duties, and a 'Digest of the Hindoo Code of Laws;' performances, of which the first appeared in 1793, and the second remained incomplete at his death. Nor was he less prone in poetical indulgence, for in 1788 he translated from Hafeti the 'Loves of Laili and Mujnoon,' and published the versification at his own expense, giving the profits of the sale to the insolvent debtors in the jail of Calcutta. During the following year he also presented the world with 'Sacontala, or the Fatal Ring,' a translation from an ancient Indian drama, which in England was by some considered spurious, but which, as Sir William lustily maintained, was an original composition.

At length the delicacy of Lady Jones's health could no longer withstand the extreme enervation of the climate, and as the only preservative of existence, she was compelled to revisit Europe, in December 1793. Her husband designed to follow her after a season or two, but life was spared to him for only a few months after her departure. On the evening of the 20th of April, 1794, he prolonged his walk to an unusually late hour, and in consequence of this partial irregularity, was seized with an inflammation of the liver, which, in seven days more, put an end to his career without any symptoms of particular suffering. Among his papers was discovered an epitaph, which was apparently designed for his own grave, and is inserted here, because it is a composition incomparably more characteristic than the one placed on his monument.

Here was deposited
The mortal part of a man
who feared God, but not death;
and maintained independence,

Digitized by Google

but sought not riches:
who thought
none below him, but the base and unjust,
none above him, but the wise and the virtuous;
who loved
his parents, kindred, friends, country,
with an ardour
which was the chief source of
all his pleasures, and all his pains;
and who, having devoted
his life to their service
and to
the improvement of his mind,
resigned it calmly,
giving glory to his Creator,
wishing peace on earth,
and with
good will to his creatures,
on the *twenty-seventh* day of *April*,
in the year of our blessed Redeemer,
One thousand seven hundred and ninety-four.

Of Sir William Jones's works, which were printed by his lady, in six volumes, 4to., the only portion now read, comprises his poetry; and of the character pervading that, an anecdote preserved of his habit of study in early life, may serve to indicate the peculiarity. He used to read, we are told, with a pen in his hand, and mark every striking passage for subsequent imitation. The influence of this propensity pervades all he ever wrote, and he will be found a copyist or plagiarist throughout all his pages. But the reputation of one who once held a great name requires us to descend a little to particulars. Foremost, then, in the edition of his poems, as they are now published, is placed 'Arcadia,' a pastoral, taken from a paper by Addison in the Guardian. It presents a correctness of versification and classical bearing, which will always remain creditable, but can never rise to any very high praise, while the more original qualities of rich expression and fine imagery are cultivated, and approved as warmly as they deserve to be. In the next poem 'Caissa, or the Game of

Digitized by Google

Chess,' the palpable derivativeness of his productions—the earnest of scholarship, but defect of authorship—is still more strongly developed. The subject matter of the 'Arcadia' was avowedly borrowed, but the adaptation of 'Caissa' was somewhat more his own; and he was, therefore, necessitated to cull the beauties of other poets, in order to work out an agreeable context. Of such literary loans it may be philosophical truth, that may be applied, they are always fainter from reflection. In his odes, however, he succeeded better: there is a familiar state in the 'Muse Recalled,' which few have attempted, and he has certainly made engaging. The two imitations of 'Alcæus and Callistratus' have a nerve, and apposite amplification, which, to be justly appreciated, should be read.

The translations and imitations from the poets of the East have been highly praised, and much prized, but are rendered with considerable inequality; and, though sometimes lofty, are mostly crude,—indeed the observation may be extended to almost all his rhymes. In general he gives a full expression of his author's sense, but neither seizes his style, nor grapples with those bolder traits which genius is always sure to embrace by a natural sympathy, even in passages where the matter provokes no expectation, and seems to admit of little embellishment. The distinctive charm of the Eastern poets is brevity, uniformly neat, and invariably strong. Every thought with them is a mine of wealth, an isolated lake of freshness, or secret horde of sweets; the object is brought fairly and fully before the mind, and the reader is left to illustrate its varieties by the richness of his own ideas. But Sir William Jones often plays with this spirit as a child models a Chinese palace with cards, or a boy mimics a bust on a cherry stone. When he labours, he is pedantic, and when literal, he proses. The 'Hymn to Laschmi' is sustained with a finer imagery and bolder expression than he usually feels, or declares; and the 'Hymn to Narayena,' may be referred to for some of the brightest beauties he has attained, and the darkest faults he has reached.

Digitized by Google

BEN JONSON.

O RARE BEN JONSON! is the only inscription, under a bust, which is neatly chiselled, and emblematically ornamented, in the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey. The commemoration is as quaint as it is brief; and all the particulars that are preserved respecting the life of its subject correspond in meagreness and uncertainty. The son of a clergyman, who was descended from a Scotch family, and forfeited an estate during the miserable reign of Queen Mary; he was born at Westminster, on the 11th of July, 1574, and there educated, at the public school, under Camden the Antiquary. The father died before the son was born, and the widow entered into a second marriage with a bricklayer, who took the young dramatist from Westminster school and employed him as a drudge in masonry. Ben, however, was by this time sufficiently instructed in the classics to study by himself; and there is an anecdote related, which describes him labouring at the building of Lincoln's Inn, with a trowel in one hand, and an edition of Horace in the other. Camden too, as is conjectured, had noticed his talents, and now pitying his degradation, encouraged him with promises, until he was able to procure him the office of tutor to Sir Walter Raleigh's son, with whom he travelled into the Low Countries.

How long he fulfilled this trust, or how long he remained absent from England, are facts unknown. It appears, however, that he entered the army while abroad, and acquired some distinction in arms, and, also, that upon his return he became a student at St. John's College, Cambridge. Here information again fails the biographers, and no one can state the time he continued at the University, or the cause and circumstances under which he left it. It seems, nevertheless, that he next bent his

Digitized by Google

course to London, and resorting to the stage for a means of living, became a member of some obscure company, which performed at the Curtain, in Shoreditch. His first attempts at dramatic composition are supposed to have been concurrent with this essay; and, it is reported to us, that he failed at the onset in both aspirations. To complete this state of misery, he fell into a brawl, which ended in a duel, in which he killed his adversary, and was thrown into prison on a charge of murder. Of his fate in confinement, or the means by which he was restored to liberty, no account has been given, and no conjecture hazarded. It is only said, with respect to this passage of his life, that he became a convert to the Church of Rome, while he was in jail, and steadily conformed to that communion during a series of twelve succeeding years.

A tradition has always existed in the history of the drama, that Jonson stood indebted for the success of his earliest plays to suggestions and emendations with which he was favoured by Shakspeare; and thus to keep the story of his life connected, it has been thought probable, that he resorted back to the theatres, as soon as he was discharged from durance, became intimate with Shakspeare, and commenced a regular writer for the stage. How far all this may be true, it is impossible to affirm: the date of his first play is fixed by the suggestion of the critics, in 1598, when he could only have been in the 24th year of his age. If, however, a computation be made of the time which must have been consumed in the fulfilment of those events which have already been stated, this term will appear somewhat precocious, and be still more doubted when it is recollected that his first play was 'Every Man in his Humour,' a comedy of powerful merits, not likely to be the production of immature youth. Leaving the fact as it has been found, it is manifest, from the dates given in the editions of his works, that from this period he was a constant labourer, who suffered scarcely a year to pass without bringing forward something new.

In 1613, he visited France, but why he went, or how long he stopped there, are points alike unknown. After an interval of six years, he is found residing at Christ's Church College, Oxford, where he was created M.A. at a full convocation in the month of July. In the October following he was preferred to the rank of Poet Laureate. It is observable that the pension attached to the

Digitized by Google

Laurel at this period was a hundred marks a-year, which was encreased to a hundred pounds, and a tierce of Spanish wine, upon the petition of Jonson, in 1630. This augmentation of fortune availed little to his comfort or respectability: like other poets he was improvident, and was soon after discovered lodging in an obscure alley, and so sick and poor, that a representation was made in his behalf to Charles the I. The King sent him ten guineas, a frugal donation, which so fired the wrath of the ancient dramatist, that he turned to the messenger and said, "His Majesty has sent me ten guineas because I am poor and live in an alley; but you may go and tell him that his soul lives in an alley." This cynical answer argues ill for the liberality of Charles: it should not therefore be concealed that there is an epigram in Jonson's works, which was written as an acknowledgment for 100*l.*, presented to him by the same king on some other occasion.

Such, and so scanty, are the only particulars on record respecting this great writer: it only remains, therefore, to tell that he died of the palsy, on the 16th of August, 1637, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. He collected and printed a part of his works in one volume folio, during the year 1616, and added to them a second volume, which was also published in folio during the year 1631. The first complete edition of his works issued from the press in folio, in 1640, and the last and best was given by Gifford, in 8vo., in 1820.

As the fame of Ben Jonson rests exclusively upon his dramatic pieces, to them alone is the attention of the reader here invited. They amount to no less a number than fifty-three, of which three-and-thirty are masks, written for and represented before the royal family, or high nobility, and not much entitled by their interest or quality to particular description. His regular dramas consist of 'Every Man in his Humour,' a comedy the most durably popular of all he produced, first acted in 1598, and first printed in 1601. 'Every Man out of his Humour,' a comical satire, followed, and was first acted in 1599, and first printed in 1600. This performance he also styled a play of characters, and made remarkable by so far adapting it to the Grecian model, as to keep throughout the succession of the scenes a body of interlocutors constantly on the stage, who commented on the plot as it proceeded. 'Cynthia's

Digitized by Google

Revels,' a comical satire, was performed in 1600, before Elizabeth, who was typified in the principal personage. 'Poetaster, or His Arraignment,' a comical satire, acted in 1601, and printed in 1602, was composed to ridicule his brother dramatists. 'Sejanus' is a tragedy classical and imposing in a high degree, but not much favoured by the public at the moment of its first representation in 1603, or at any subsequent period. 'Volpone, or the Fox,' a comedy highly finished in language and characters, and estimated one of the best of his pieces, was first acted in 1605. 'Epicene, or the Silent Woman,' a capital comedy, acted in 1609, stands highly commended by Dryden for a preservation of the Grecian unities. 'The Case Altered,' a comedy, appeared at the same date, but presents no distinctive merit, and by some has been pronounced supposititious. 'The Alchymist,' first played in 1610, is a comedy universally read and admired. 'Cataline, his Conspiracy,' dated in 1611, is a tragedy of great strength, but infinite declamation. 'Bartholomew Fair,' a comedy, acted in 1614, is remarkable for a great fund of humour, and a host of characters. 'The Devil is an Ass,' a comedy, was acted in 1616, but not printed until 1640. 'The Staple of News.' another comedy, was acted in 1625, and printed in 1631: it is chiefly remarkable for the introduction of such a body of interlocutors as is mentioned in 'Every Man out of his Humour.' The 'New Inn,' an unsuccessful comedy, was played in 1629, and printed in 1631. 'The Magnetick Lady, or Humours Reconciled,' a comedy of disputed merits, has no date assigned to it for the period of its first representation.' The latter observation also applies to the 'Tale of a Tub,' a comedy, which is replete with low humour. To this list are to be added 'The Sad Shepherd, or a Tale of Robin Hood,' and 'Mortimer's Fall;' the first a pastoral, and the second a tragedy, both left unfinished at the moment of his death. His name also appears, in conjunction with Chapman and Marston, to 'Eastward Hoe,' a comedy dated 1605; and again, with Fletcher and Middleton, to the 'Widow,' a comedy printed in Dodsley's collection.

Ben Jonson was the first of our dramatic poets who can be called a classical scholar, and he turned his learning to no light account in translating whole passages from the Latin authors into his scenes. In this respect he made by no means the most cre-

Digitized by Google

ditable use of his attainments; but he was also the first amongst us who composed his plays according to the rules of poetical art; and upon this point his merits are unequivocal. His plots, particularly in comedy, have been pronounced for the most part original, and his powers collectively were certainly great. They are, however, most studiously laboured: he consults the judgment more than he moves the heart, and has been read with pleasure, but acted with indifference. Solemn, erudite, and equally sustained, never sinking below, nor rising above, a standard par of correctness, with few graces, and fewer passions, the stronger charm of his art seems to consist in a surprising combination of characters, all richly invented and clearly distinguished, with an inexhaustible fund of humour; and its more prominent faults a cold expression, stiff agency, and feeble catastrophe. It has been objected to him that he wants wit, a charge from which Dryden desired to rescue him by observing that he possessed it fully, and was only frugal in his use of it. The same poet also remarks, though not in these very words, that he managed his own strength better than any of his predecessors, and might have made higher flights had he not felt he came after those who had risen so nobly. According to Sir Richard Steele's estimate, his penetration was accurate and deep; and the skill with which he discerned and drew forth follies, was extensive and admirable. His works are ranked with those of Shakspeare, and Beaumont and Fletcher; but they hold the third place on the roll.

Of Jonson's private life nothing is known; but he has been represented a man of sullen temperament, most bitterly jealous of success, most haughtily impatient of rivalry, and somewhat rudely tainted with ingratitude. We are told that he always disputed Shakspeare's claim to matchlessness with pertinacity, and decried his style with much acerbity. This prejudice, if he owed Shakspeare the obligations previously mentioned, was unkind, but not altogether irreconcileable; a learned genius can never be supposed to witness the strong triumph of untaught nature without repining. But his aversion was not deadly, for he wrote a poem to Shakspeare's memory, which did credit both to his subject and to himself. He has also been censured for satirising Inigo Jones, an artist of the first talents, who aided his reputation, in no mean degree, by the machines and scenery devised for his

Digitized by Google

Court Masques: unfortunately the sin of this libel is extenuated by no atonement.

But the most extraordinary trait in Jonson's literary character is excessive vanity, and a reckless spirit of resentment for any disfavour shown to his productions. One instance of this peculiarity will suffice to convey an idea of its extravagance. His comedy of the 'New Inn, or the Light Heart,' rather failing of the success to which he fancied it was entitled, he issued it forth from the press with the following title:—"*The* NEW INN, or *The* LIGHT HEART, *a comedy as it was never acted, but most negligently played* by some, the *King's Servants, and more squeamishly beheld and censured by* others, *the King's Subjects*, 1629. *Now at last set at liberty to the Readers, his Majesty's Servants and Subjects, to be judged of.*" But not even the sharpness of this censure could satisfy the indignation of our opinionated hero, RARE BEN JONSON. He subjoined an ode addressed to himself, in which the public taste was openly reprobated in stanzas coarse and bold as these:—

Come, leave the loathed stage,
And the more loathsome age;
Where pride and impudence (in faction knit)
Usurp the chair of wit!
Indicting and arraigning every day,
Something they call a play.
Let their fastidious, vain
Commission of the brain
Run on, and rage, sweat, censure and condemn:
They were not made for thee, less thou for them.

Say that thou pour'st them wheat,
And they will acorns eat;
'Twere simple fury, still, thyself to waste,
On such as have no taste!
To offer them a surfeit of pure bread,
Whose appetites are dead!
No, give them grains their fill,
Husks, dross, to drink and swill.
If they love lees and leave the lusty wine,
Envy them not, their palate's with the swine.

Digitized by Google

No doubt, some mouldy tale
Like *Pericles*; and stale
As the Shrieve's crusts, and nasty as his fish—
Scraps, out of every dish
Thrown forth, and rak'd into the common tub,
May keep up the play club;
There sweepings do as well
As the best ordered meal:
For who the relish of these guests will fit,
Needs set them but the alms-basket of wit.

And much good do 't ye then:
Brave *plush* and *velvet* men
Can feed on orts: and safe in your stage-clothes,
Dare quit upon your oaths,
The stagers, and the stage-wrights too (your peers)
Of lauding in your ears
With their foul comic socks,
Wrought upon twenty blocks:
Which, if they 're torn and turn'd, and patch'd enough,
The gamesters share their guilt, and you their stuff.

Leave things so prostitute,
And take th' Alcaic lute;
Or thine own Horace, or Anacreon's lyre;
Warm thee by Pindar's fire:
And though thy nerves be shrunk and blood be cold,
Ere years have made thee old,
Strike that disdainful heat
Throughout, to their defeat:
And curious fools, all envious of thy strain,
May blushing, swear, no palsy's in thy brain. &c. &c.

Digitized by Google

SIR GODFREY KNELLER, BART.

Sir Godfrey Kneller was one of those fastidious mortals, who have the vanity to provide for posthumous honours, before they are snatched from life. He left 300*l.* for the purpose of erecting a monument to his name in Westminster Abbey, and furnished a design for it, which he entrusted to Rysbrack, the statuary, with particular directions concerning the style in which it ought to be finished. The labour thus solicitously instituted, is honoured with a place at the extremity of the north aisle, and consists of his own bust standing under a rich canopy, which is confined by gilt cords, trimmed with gilt fringe, and supported by a high pedestal of fine workmanship. One cherub, in tears, points to the bust, and another hangs over a medallion of Lady Kneller. There are two inscriptions upon the pedestal: the one in Latin, which merely recapitulates that he was a knight of the Roman empire, an English baronet, and painter to five successive sovereigns; the other in English, and most eulogistically composed by Pope. They are engraved in the following order:—

M. S.
Godefredi Kneller Equitis Rom. Imp. Et Angliæ
Baronetti Pictoris Regibus Carolo II. Jacobi II.
Gulielmo III. Annæ Reginæ. Georgio I. Qui Obit
XXVI. Oct. An. MDCCXXIII. Ætat. LXXVII.

Kneller, by Heav'n, and not a Master taught,
Whose Art was Nature, and whose Pictures Thought,
When now two Ages he had snatch'd from Fate,
Whate'er was Beauteous, or whate'er was Great;

Digitized by Google

Rests crown'd with Princes' Honours, Poets' Lays,
Due to his Merit and brave Thirst of Praise;
Living, great Nature fear'd he might outvye
Her works; and dying, fears herself may dye.

Godfrey Kneller was born during the year 1646, at Lubeck, to the mines of which city his father, an architect by profession, was surveyor. The army was originally his destination; and the better to qualify him for that career, he was sent to study mathematics and the science of fortification, at the University of Leyden. There, however, a natural predilection for the fine arts impelled him to make some efforts in painting, which were so well approved, that his father consented to change the intended course of his life, and permitted him to receive instructions from Bol, at Amsterdam. At a subsequent period he had also the honour of taking some lessons from Rembrandt.

Acquiring means to visit Italy in his twenty-second year, he made a considerable stay at Venice; and, after devoting some time to a study of the works of Titian and Annibal Carracci, began to labour on his own account in the business of an historical painter. As his productions were striking, he rose into immediate notice, and acquired the patronage of the wealthier families in the city with enviable rapidity. He did not, however, continue long attached to the higher branches of the profession; but, instigated by an insatiable thirst for emolument, which ever after infected his progress, soon diverged into the lazier and more lucrative employment of portrait painting. This modification of his art once adopted, he adhered to with constancy, and was accustomed to extenuate by observing, that historical painters made the dead live, but only began to live themselves after they were dead in their turn; whereas, he who painted the living was kept alive by his subjects. This was a mercenary sentiment, unworthy of the nobility of genius, and as such has been greatly quarrelled with. Instances are certainly to be quoted, in which historical painters have failed to acquire during lifetime that full portion of fame and fortune to which they were eminently entitled; but the cases are very few in which a man of superior deserts in this line has been so shamefully neglected as to bear the contrast of the preceding statement fully out. Portrait painting, nevertheless,

Digitized by Google

is honourably deserving of its greatest rewards, for it is the handmaid of history, and renders services the most valuable, by preserving the faithful image of every character who can impart interest or dignity to the records of national affairs.

Kneller's first visit to England took place in 1674; and the first introduction of any note obtained by him was to the Duke of Monmouth. So flattering were his recommendations, that the Duke sat to him for a portrait, which gave complete satisfaction, and induced his grace to prevail upon Charles the II. to follow his example. It so happened that Sir Peter Lely was just then busy upon a similar work, and the indolent monarch, to save himself trouble, sat to both artists at the same time. Lely, as the Court painter, had the advantages of a chosen light and station; while Kneller was obliged to catch his traits as he could, and yet succeeded best; for even his competitor acknowledged that he drew with happier despatch, and coloured a more faithful likeness. The king received the performance with unqualified applause, and his reputation was forthwith established: orders and sittings multiplied incessantly upon him, and he quickly determined to fix his residence in England.

In 1680 Sir Peter Lely died, and Kneller was promoted to the rank thus vacated, of portrait painter to his Majesty, who, four years after, sent him to Paris to take a picture of Louis the XIV. During this interval, the death of Charles occurred; but Kneller lost nothing by the event, for he was distinguished with great favours by his successor, who also sat for a portrait. The revolution tended even more fortunately to augment his prosperity: he was commissioned by William to paint the plenipotentiaries at Rywick; and upon his return to England, in 1692, was honoured with knighthood, presented with a gold medal and chain, valued at three hundred guineas, and nominated a gentleman of the Privy Chamber. This was the climax of his career: for William, or rather for William's Queen Mary, he painted his portraits of the British admirals, his Beauties of Hampton Court, and during the reign of William, he made his celebrated likenesses of the Kit-Cat Club. His official employments and state patronage were continued under equal circumstances of regard during the reign of Anne, who employed him to paint her a picture of Charles, then Archduke, but afterwards Emperor of Austria, an

Digitized by Google

occupation for which he was recompensed by the title of Hereditary Knight of the Roman Empire. Equally prized by both the great contending parties in the nation, no vicissitudes in the order of state proceedings could affect his popularity: by George the I. he was caressed as signally as by any of his predecessors, and created a Baronet. George, too, was the last of five British sovereigns who sat to him for their portraits, and were all outlived by him.

Employment thus protracted, and popularity so constant, of course, begot a circle of acquaintances equally extensive, and a fortune comparatively ample, which was enhanced by the particular friendship of some of the first men of the age. Though eager in the acquisition of money, Kneller was not altogether illiberal in the use he made of his gains, and led a life of hospitality and tasteful magnificence. He lost 20,000*l.* by the South Sea bubble, but recovered his means so carefully as to leave behind him an estate of 2000*l.* a-year at his death. It was somewhat burthened, however, and was realized by charging twenty guineas for a head; twenty-five for a head with one hand introduced on the canvass, thirty for a half, and sixty guineas for a whole-length picture. He kept a country-house at Whitton, near Hampton Court, and was there accustomed to entertain the first wits and best authors of his day. As a member of the Kit-Cat Club, he was the intimate associate of nobles and statesmen of the highest rank and merit, and derived no mean portion of his celebrity. A licentious man, particularly in matters concerning religion; he was also a very free liver, and yet enjoyed capital health, almost to the very last stage of an advanced old age. He never once ceased to cultivate his art, and died in consequence of the enervation produced by a fever, from which he was partially recovered by the skill of Dr. Mead, in October, 1723. His obsequies were celebrated with flattering pomp: the body lay in state in London, and was then removed to a vault expressly prepared for its reception at Whitton.

It is to Kneller we must trace the dawning of a Royal Academy, for we are told that an association of artists, for the purpose of exhibiting paintings, was instituted in 1711. They held their meetings at the private residence of some one member

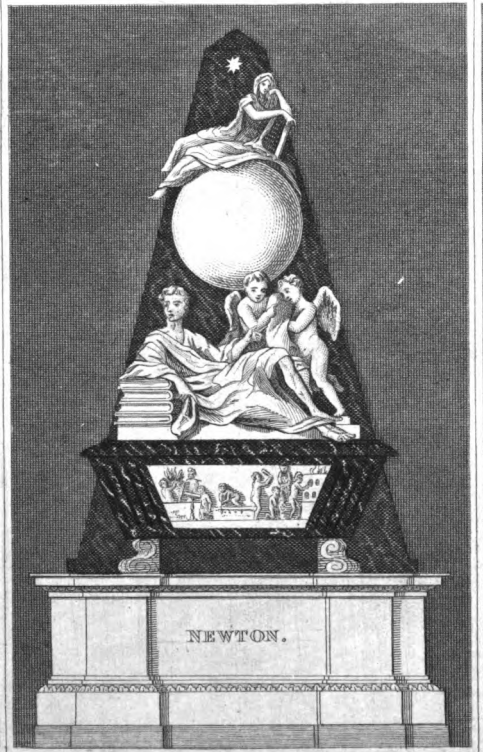
Digitized by Google

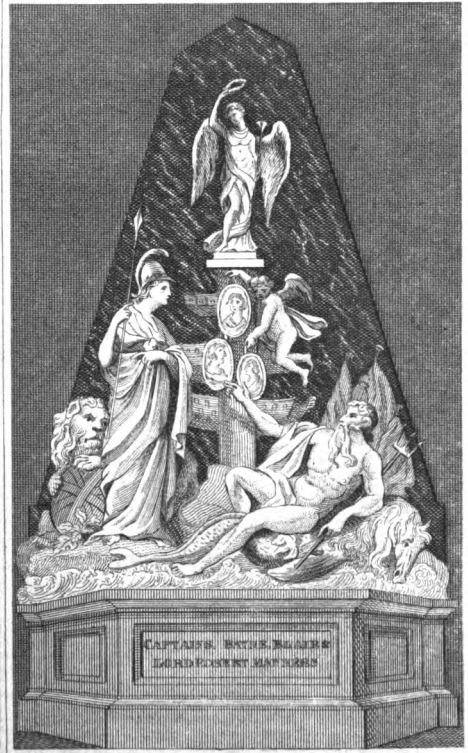
or another, and chose Sir Godfrey head of their body; but no account of their proceedings has been preserved. Kneller's principal performances have already been mentioned: they comprise the pieces at Hampton Court Palace; the series of Admirals, originally dispersed amongst the Royal Palaces, but latterly allocated at Greenwich Hospital, by the taste of his present Majesty; the heads of the Kit-Cat Club; and portraits of almost every character who figured with distinction during the long period of his lifetime. Of all his productions, he is said to have set the highest value upon The Chinese Converted, in Windsor Castle, and certainly it is eminently entitled to all the honours of his preference. But if it displays how much he could effect, it also inspires a regret that he should have so rarely exerted the fulness of his powers. Upon a par with this, in the portrait line, may be placed a head of Sir Isaac Newton, which it would not disparage the pencil of any master to own. Nearly all his pieces have been engraved: the greatness of his reputation was therefore established by the most convincing earnest of value. His drawing is free and lively, but often loose; his attitudes are striking, but in the subordinate parts generally heinously proportioned; his colouring is frequently true, and finely blended, but his imagination was poor. The air of his heads, though characterised by a sameness which almost approaches to physiognomical identity, is tasteful: the hair is made to fall with marked ease and nature, and the drapery which he invented for his females is fanciful and engaging. To judge, however, by the majority of his works, he was a mere portrait-painter: he bestowed all his care upon the head, and abandoned the rest of the body to dulness and defects. This observation applies to his best performances; but of the remaining multitude, which were evidently executed for money alone, the blemishes are so many, and so egregious, that it were vain to criticise their faults: they disgraced the art, and would sully the brightest talents.

Amongst other preferments, Sir Godfrey enjoyed the honour of acting in the commission of the peace for the county of Middlesex, a trust in which he acquired more credit for humanity than legal judgment. Of his proceedings with this bias, one anecdote has been preserved, which is so notable, that it deserves a place in every sketch of his worship's life. A gentleman once charged

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google





LONDON
Published by John Williams 44 Charterhouse Row.

Digitized by Google

his servant before Sir Godfrey with stealing some money, which, as it appeared during the course of the enquiry, had been exposed in a certain place for the express purpose of tempting the poor fellow's honesty. Whereupon the good-natured but indignant artist dismissed the servant, and committed the master to prison as the greater rogue. Pope alludes to this peculiar principle of jurisprudence in his Imitations of Horace, book 2, epistle 2, where he writes:—

"'Faith, in such case if you should prosecute,
I think Sir Godfrey should decide the suit,
Who sent the thief who stole the cash away,
And punished him that put it in his way."

Kneller was as fond of flattery as of money, and his vanity was enviably gratified; for, to say nothing of the complimentary treatment he always received from the great, poets, not fewer, or less eminent, than Dryden, Pope, Addison, Prior, and Tickle, concurred in versifying his praises. Of these various tributes, perhaps, Addison's Epistle, on his series of English Sovereigns, reflects the highest merits both upon the author and the artist. It has already been noticed and quoted from in the life of Addison, and need not, therefore, be farther expatiated upon here.

EARL OF MANSFIELD.

William, the fourth son of David Murray, Earl of Stormont, was born on the second day of March, 1705, but at what place has been variously related. By some Scone is named, by others Perth, in Scotland, and by the registry of

Digitized by Google

his admission into Christ's College, his birth is fixed at Bath. It is reported, however, that his lordship resolved these contradictions by explaining, that the officer at Oxford mistook the broad Scotch pronunciation of Perth for Bath. How far this may have been a true blunder, it were now hard to determine; but if we may suppose that it was young Murray himself who furnished the particulars of his birth and parentage to the registrar, the confusion will still prevail. For it is certain that he came to London when only three years old, that he was educated in England, that he spent little or no time in Scotland, and was never infected with the dialect peculiar to that country. These latter facts render the first doubts almost of no moment, for the mere locality of a man's birth is utterly inconsequential. The parents who brought him into the world, or the people amongst whom he happens to be bred, are the only circumstances to which the curious in metaphysics can trace an effect, inasmuch as it is the disposition which a man may be supposed to inherit from the blood of his progenitors, and the degree in which the habits of his earliest associates may have tended to mould his character, which can alone impart interest to the stages of infancy.

At the age of fourteen he was admitted into Westminster School as a King's Scholar, and gave speedy proofs of uncommon abilities, amongst which an aptitude for declamation was particularly remarked. In 1723 he stood first on the list of those who competed for an election to Oxford, and was accordingly entered at Christ's Church College, on the 18th of July following. He took his degree of B. A. in 1727, and of M. A. in 1730, and is supposed to have left the place soon after to make a tour on the Continent. His name appears subscribed to one of the Latin poems, published by the University to honour the death of George the I.; and in the same volume will be found another effusion from his future parliamentary rival, the great Pitt, Earl of Chatham. This, and another collegiate exercise, in the same language, upon Blenheim, are the only public records of that poetical nature, upon which Pope founded the celebrated tribute —'How sweet an Ovid is a Murray lost;' but in all probability those who may take so much trouble as to judge for themselves, will at last determine, that, like most compliments, the present one is more imaginary than real.

Digitized by Google

After his return from the Continent, an event fixed at no positive date, Murray became a student-at-law, of Lincoln's Inn, and was in due course called to the bar. Unlike the generality of those who pursue the same profession, he grew at once into reputation, and rose rapidly in honours. His practice lay chiefly in the Court of King's Bench, and before the House of Lords; and it is observable, that at the very beginning he was estimated, in the opinion of the public, precisely in the same manner as at the climax of his career, being always regarded as one whose talents far exceeded his acquirements, a graceful and happy speaker, but an unlearned lawyer. His business, however, was considerable: in 1736 he was retained by the city of Edinburgh to oppose the progress of the bill of Pains and Penalties, by which the government evinced a displeasure, as passionate as it was unreasonable, at the excesses of that Porteus mob, which is now better known as an incident in the novels by the author of 'Waverly' than an historical fact. The bill passed into a law, and the unlucky Lord Provost and City of Edinburgh were heavily amerced; but Murray's exertions so far fulfilled the expectation of his employers, that they afterwards presented him with the freedom of their corporation in a gold box.

From this period he seems to have ranked as one of the leading men at the bar: nor did the promises which his reputation held out remain long unfulfilled. In November 1738 he married Lady Elizabeth Finch, daughter of the Earl of Winchelsea; again in November 1743 he was appointed Solicitor-general, in the room of Sir John Strange; and in the same year he was elected a member of Parliament for Boroughbridge, in Yorkshire, an honour which was repeated during the years 1747 and 1754. In the House of Commons he gave that assistance to the ministry which was expected from his station, and made his support more than ordinarily acceptable by the effect of his eloquence, which being characterised by great fluency, much temper, and a very gracious style, seldom failed to secure attention. For these qualities he was chosen by the Commons, one of the Managers to conduct the impeachment of Lord Lovat, in 1746, an irksome labour, which was in his case not a little aggravated by one of the parts which fell to his lot—that of making the last reply to evidence before judgment was delivered, and thus destroying one by one

Digitized by Google

the best hopes of the accused. Yet such was the delicate propriety with which he acquitted himself of this duty, that he ensured the approbation of his own party, and was even complimented by Lovat. The Lord Chancellor Talbot concluded his charge by observing—'The abilities of the learned manager, who just now spoke, never appeared with greater splendour than at this very hour, when his candour and humanity have been joined to those great abilities which have already made him so conspicuous, that I hope one day to see him add dignity to the lustre of the first civil employment in this nation.' To this praise Lord Lovat added with that air of noble good humour by which the close of his life was distinguished—'I thought myself very much loaded by one Murray, who, your Lordships know, was the bitterest evidence there was against me. I have since suffered from another Mr. Murray, who, I must say with pleasure, is an honour to his country, and whose ability and learning is much beyond what is to be expressed by an ignorant man like me. I heard him with pleasure, though it was against me. I have the honour to be his relation, though, perhaps, he neither knows it nor values it. But I wish that his being born in the North may not hinder him from the preferment that his merit and learning deserve.'

The times, however, were bitterly distracted, and the Solicitor-general came in for no common share of obloquy. By one party he was disliked on account of his political station, and the strenuous manner in which he upheld it; and to another he was not less obnoxious, because his family, according to the opprobrium of the times, were Jacobites. From this latter circumstance resulted an affair strangely injudicious, but egregiously mortifying. In 1753, a Mr. Fawcett, then Recorder of Newcastle, happened to mention at a public dinner, that he remembered the time when Dr. Johnson, afterwards Bishop of Gloucester, was very ill-affected, and accustomed to drink the Pretender's health. The story got wind, and in time reached London, where it created so great an impression, that Mr. Pelham commissioned a friend to ascertain its truth. Being thus interrogated, Fawcett declared that at such a distance of time he could not positively remember whether or not Johnson had really done as he had first said; but that he was certain the Solicitor-general and his old schoolfellow Mr. Stone had repeatedly drank the Pretender's health upon their knees.

Digitized by Google

The ministry and the king himself are all said to have slighted the affair; but so much was it talked of, that at last the Duke of Bedford founded a motion on it before the House of Lords, early in 1753. A debate and a division took place, but the numbers were never reported, nor was any thing material elicited: so that Lord Melcombe justly remarks in his diary, "it was the worst judged, the worst executed, and the worst supported point that I ever saw of so much expectation."

But the truth of the character here given to this proceeding was more strongly evinced in the sequel; for in 1754, only a year after it occurred, Mr. Murray was made Attorney-general, in the room of Sir Dudley North, who rose to be Chief-Justice of the Court of King's Bench; and upon the death of the latter, in 1756, he again succeeded him in the Chief-Justiceship. A higher proof of the estimation in which his services were held was also given, for the great seal was now affixed to a patent, by which he was created Baron of Mansfield. In his judicial capacity he was not long in adding to his reputation: the regularity into which the practice of the court fell under his superintendence, the punctuality of the judgments, and the promptitude with which business was dispatched, attracted the attention of the public, and secured all the praise which an energetic discharge of official justice eminently deserves. There were, however, some who still pronounced his Lordship more an orator than a lawyer; and it cannot be denied that in his decisions he frequently used to rely more upon the equity of his reasoning, than on a rigid reference to the abstruse records of past disputes. But it must also be stated, that his judgments in general satisfied his suitors; for a report has been printed in which it is shown that, for the number of causes heard, there were fewer motions for new trials in the Court of King's Bench, as well as fewer appeals from its jurisdiction, during his time, than at any preceding interval of equal practice and duration.

From the evidence thus supplied, it does not seem too much to aver, that with his cotemporaries, and with posterity, the fame of Lord Mansfield must have stood, and would still stand far fairer, had his talents been confined to the interests of law. But as a peer he was involved in politics, and as a judge he was always linked with the minister of the day, and biassed in favour of prerogative. From all this it unfortunately happened that his po-

Digitized by Google

pularity fluctuated with the vicissitudes of the state; until at last, after successively gracing the triumphs of principles the most conflicting, and men the most adverse, his name lost a great share of its respect with the majority of his countrymen. The first ministerial cares upon which he entered were the most creditable to himself, and the most beneficial to the country; for, accepting the Chancellorship of the Exchequer in April, 1757, he succeeded in reconciling the friends of Mr. Pitt and Mr. Legge to act with Mr. Fox, and thus established the administration which shed such formidable glory upon the latter years of the reign of George the II. This task accomplished, he resigned the Exchequer seals after holding them for two months, and was offered but declined the place of Lord High Chancellor. This promotion was again tendered to him in 1770, and once more in 1771, but he consistently refused it; and Charles Yorke obtained it upon the one, and Lord Bathurst upon the other occasion.

To pursue the public conduct of Lord Mansfield through the reign of George the III., would be to write a history of the ministerial conflicts which so violently agitated the country from the first accession of that prince to the throne, down to his death. During all that time Lord Mansfield never stood in opposition to the policy of the government, one only interval excepted, and that was limited to the brief administration of Lord Rockingham, in 1765. Hence it may be easier to conceive than to describe the heavy weight of popular odium to which that man must have been subjected, who uniformly supported the American Stamp Act, and the war it led to, who advocated the expulsion of Wilks from the House of Commons, and maintained the exploded doctrine, that in all cases of libel the spirit and intention of the publication was to be decided not by the jury, but by the Court alone. For all these acts he was rewarded by the crown with an Earldom, in 1776, and shamefully punished by the people, who composed Lord George Gordon's followers in the terrible riots of 1780. By them his house in Bloomsbury-square was attacked and set on fire, and the whole fabric, furniture, pictures, library, manuscripts, and deeds, reduced to a heap of ashes. This injury he bore with great fortitude and decency: he had a right to recover compensation from the Hundred, but he sought for no indemnification; and when addressed upon the sub-

Digitized by Google

ject, returned a delicate answer, from which the following is an extract:—"Besides what is irreparable, my pecuniary loss is great. I apprehended no danger, and therefore took no precaution. But how great soever that loss may be, I think it does not become me to seek reparation from the state. I have made up my mind to my misfortune as I ought, with this consolation, that it came from those whose object manifestly was general confusion and destruction at home, in addition to a dangerous and complicated war abroad. If I should lay before you any account or computation of the pecuniary damage I have sustained, it might seem a claim or expectation of being indemnified. Therefore, you will have no further trouble upon this subject from," &c. &c.

Lord Mansfield continued sedulous in the discharge of his public duties, until encreasing infirmities compelled him to send in his resignation in 1788. He lived comparatively in retirement until the 20th of March, 1793, when he quietly expired at Kenwood. He desired in his will that he might be privately interred in Westminster Abbey, and there accordingly his body was deposited in the north cross aisle. The spot is now indicated by a lofty monument, ably erected by Flaxman, R.A., pursuant to the directions of A. Bailey, Esq. of Lyon's Inn, who left 2500*l.* for the purpose. A robed statue of his Lordship, seated in judgment, is elevated upon a circular pedestal of noble dimensions: to his left stands Justice with the statera poised; to his right, Wisdom expounding Law; and between the two is an emblematical trophy composed of his Lordship's arms, the mantle of honour, the trasces, curtana, &c. To the back of the chair on which he sits, is affixed his motto, 'Uni Æquus Virtuti—Equal to virtue alone:' and underneath, circled by a wreath of laurel, is the poetical emblem of Death amongst the ancients—a fair youth, leaning on an extinguished torch, between two funeral altars.

Digitized by Google

WILLIAM MASON, M. A.

DIRECTLY facing the entrance into the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey, is a memorial wrought on white marble, in high relief, and tributary to the merits of the Rev. William Mason. It is a piece of sculpture not over finely executed by Bacon, and comprises only a figure of Poetry leaning in an attitude of grief over a medallion of the deceased. The inscription is in Latin, and to this effect :—

* Sacred
to an excellent Man,
WILLIAM MASON, A. M.
A Poet,
If any,
Chaste, cultivated, and pious.

He died April the 7th, 1797,
Aged 72.

William Mason, the son of a clergyman, who held the vicarage of the Holy Trinity, at Kingston-upon-Hull, in Yorkshire, was

* Optimo Viro
Gulielmo Mason, A. M.
Poetæ,
Si quis alius,
Culto, casto, pio,
Sacrum.

Ob. 7. Apr. 1797.
Ætat. 72.

Digitized by Google

born during the year 1725. Being admitted in due time to St. John's College, Cambridge, he took his first degree in 1745, after which, removing into Pembroke College, he commenced his friendship with Gray, and obtained a Fellowship in 1747. Two years afterwards he became a Master of Arts. He took orders in 1754, when the patronage of the Earl of Holdernesse procured for him the rank of Chaplain to his Majesty, and an induction into the valuable rectory of Aston, in Yorkshire.

Mason's first public appearance as an author occurred during the year 1749, when he had the honour of composing a respectable ode for the solemnity observed at the installation of the Duke of Newcastle into the Chancellorship of his University. This poem, though little heeded by his Grace, was favourably received by the public; and the impression was greatly improved by the succeeding production of 'A Monody to the Memory of Pope,' and 'Isis,' an elegy. The Monody was much studied, but not ineffective, though couched in a style which has been long and deservedly exploded. Isis was schoolboyish, and rejected from the subsequent editions of his works. But his standard rise to popularity took place upon the publication of his 'Elfrida,' a dramatic poem, 1752. In this, as well as in 'Caractacus,' which followed in 1759, he undertook to revive the ancient Greek drama, in all its pomp of chorus and purity of scenic action, a task which, though unsuccessful on the stage, was crowned with the highest compliments in the closet. His genius being decidedly lyrical, he naturally interwove with his dialogues some lofty specimens of the richly ornamented ode, which elevated him in public estimation as the next best composer in that flight of poetry to his friend Gray. In stating that he failed to inspire that interest which is the true purpose of all tragedy, it must also be added that he did not intend his pieces for the modern theatre, which, with a disdain peculiar to his literary character, he pronounced degraded beneath the level of its ancient dignity. Hence the attempts which were subsequently made to introduce them on the stage in a mutilated and distorted form, were alike uncongenial to his desires, and inimical to his first designs; and it can hardly excite surprise, that they never secured a permanent standing on the boards, though 'Elfrida' was set to music by Giardini, and 'Caractacus' by Dr. Arne.

Proceeding in a course of high reputation, he brought forward

Digitized by Google

a volume of new odes in 1756, which were evidently written in imitation of the gorgeous diction, and the splendid imagery, which dazzle throughout all his friend Gray executed in the same style. They have, therefore, not inappropriately or severely been considered to display more of the ingenuity of study than the spirit of imagination. This redundance of artificial beauty, however, was subdued in his next publication, which was entitled 'Elegies,' and first appeared in 1763: for though tinted with some superfluous ornament, they are elegantly written, and for the greater part couched in a simplicity of language which decently becomes their order. They are to be commended for many noble declarations of virtue and freedom. Indeed, in two respects, Mason stands almost superior and unfellowed as a poet: he is consistently an advocate of the purest morality, and a warm patron of all that is honourable in civil liberty. He collected all his poems with the exception of his 'Installation Ode,' and 'Isis,' in 1764, and published them together in one 8vo. volume, which was repeatedly reprinted during his lifetime, and has not been neglected since his death.

Devoting his powers to a different line of subjects, he produced in 1772 the first part of the 'English Garden;' a didactic and descriptive poem in blank verse, of which the fourth and concluding book was published in 1781. The purport of this undertaking was to recommend, by the impressive charms of poetry, that modern plan of landscape gardening, which has now exploded the formal quincunx, straight avenue, and rectangular walk; and to this mode he adheres with all the vigour of judgment and pertinacity of exclusive taste. His versification, constructed on the purest models, is embellished by some vivid delineations; but the preceptive portion is so minutely provided and stiffly delivered, that the whole text was regarded more as an evidence of professional skill than a proof of poetical art, and being considered dry by the first readers, was expelled by their aversion from that popularity to which the generality of his writings ascended.

In July, 1771, Gray died, and Mason paid an honourable tribute to his memory, by preparing an edition of his works, to which were prefixed, memoirs of his life, and a character of his writings. They appeared in a 4to. volume during the year 1775

Digitized by Google

and contained some compositions which were unfinished, and some few others which had not been previously published. The account of the life was agreeably relieved by the interspersion of original letters, which were connected with the narrative, an example which has been since adopted to great advantage in other biographical works, and which in this instance was rendered peculiarly judicious on account of the paucity of incident and anecdote which pervaded the subject matter. The book was deservedly well received by the public; for the remarks offered upon the habits and genius of his deceased friend, and the exemplifications adduced of his upright mind and varied acquirements, were extremely creditable to the taste and attachment of Mason. This was the opinion of cotemporaries; but it has since been discovered, that some papers were either wilfully suppressed, or inaptly neglected, which establish the profundity of Gray's judgment, and the extent of his knowledge, in a more striking manner than Mason chose to display.

Mason's warmth in the advocacy of those doctrines of civil liberty, which constitute the supreme boast of his country, have been already alluded to, but require a more particular exemplification. Not merely contented with avowing the best principles, he was always forward to act upon his professions, and thus repeatedly concurred with the friends of reform in the neighbourhood of his own residence, in an effectual opposition to every public measure which appeared obnoxious to the interests, or incompatible with the rights of freemen. During the American war he took advantage of Admiral Keppel's court-martial, to address 'An Ode to the Naval Officers of Great Britain,' in which he strongly expressed his disapprobation of the hostilities carried on against the transatlantic subjects of the state. With a similar feeling, but one which proved fallacious in the issue, he greeted Mr. Pitt's accession to power in 1782, with an 'Ode,' replete with manly sentiments of patriotism, though somewhat enervated by a profusion of imagery and embellishment. This homage was doubtless incited by the zeal with which he co-operated with the Yorkshire Association for procuring a Reform in Parliament, a measure which Mr. Pitt had supported with a strength so hardy, and a judgment so commanding, that Mason, in common with many of the Whigs, regarded the young po-

Digitized by Google

litician, not without an earnest of truth, as a heaven-born minister, who was to heal the wounds, and renovate the health of the Constitution.

From this busy diversion, however, he soon reverted to more congenial pursuits, and, in consequence of an early predilection for the art, revised and improved, to the utmost of his mature abilities, for such are his own words, a translation of 'Fresnoy's Latin Poem on Painting,' which he had begun in his youth. It was published in a 4to. volume during the year 1788, and was enriched with many additions, of which the principal comprised annotations, furnished by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Few undertakings have ever been better executed than this was; it combines elegance of language, purity of versification, and a correct idea of the original. In short, it was equally well received, and performed; and has completely superseded the previous version by Dryden.

Hitherto, scarcely any notice has been taken of Mason, in the character of a churchman, and, in truth, he effected little that entitles him to any marked commemoration in that vocation. The following are the only essays in his clerical career which are worth a recital. Not long after his assumption of orders, he was preferred to the post of precentor and canon residentiary in the Cathedral of York, and at that grade his promotion rested. During the year 1788, he preached in this church 'An Occasional Discourse,' subsequently printed, which entered upon the abominations of the slave trade, and vividly denounced the infamous barbarity of the traffic. It was one of the first and most energetic blows levelled against a system which, notwithstanding its mortal sinfulness, is not even yet entirely abandoned. It was also during this year, that he came before the public as editor of the Poems of his friend Whitehead, the Poet Laureate, to which he prefixed a biographical memoir. But wanting the intrinsic excitement and current interest, which signalised the similar task he performed for Gray—these labours were less ably executed, and less prosperously received. In the next year the centenary commemoration of the Revolution again called forth his poetical talents in a 'Secular Ode,' which breathed his wonted spirit of independence and liberty.

Having by this time earned a standard reputation, he reposed

Digitized by Google

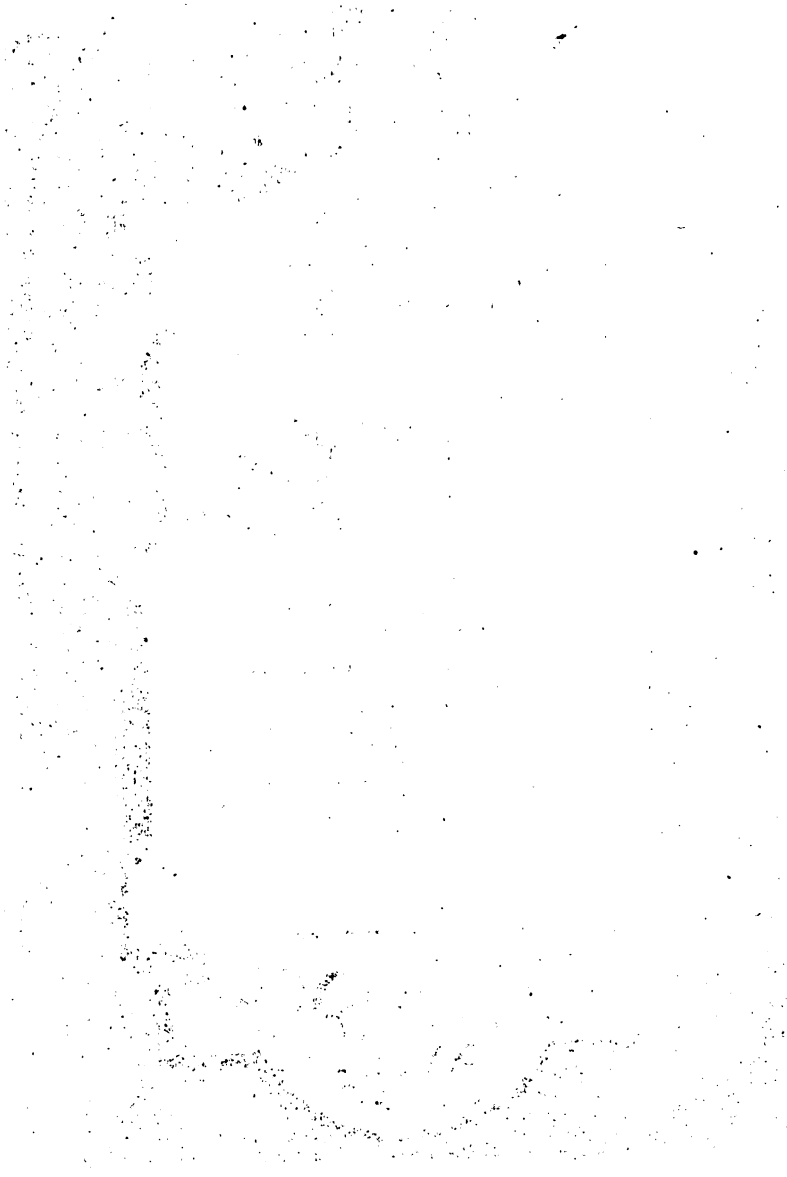
awhile from exertion, and lived in easy dignity. In 1795 a passion for music, in which constant cultivation made him tolerably proficient, induced him to publish 'Essays, Historical, and Critical,' in one volume, 12mo. In this work he is not denied the merit of having introduced judicious remarks, and useful suggestions; although his notion of simplifying church music, and his impugnation of many of those principles which have long been considered indispensably attached to its performances, prevented the book from attaining any authoritative circulation. Two years afterwards he made his last literary offering to the public, a volume of 'Poems,' in which he printed various pieces, some revised from the productions of his youth, and others the effusions of old age. Amongst the latter, was a 'Palinody to Liberty,' which gave a painful utterance to the change wrought in his political opinions by the unhappy perversions of the French Revolution. Of this vacillation, to which Burke led the way, nothing very surprising need be thought, particularly when the opulent respectability, the elegant livelihood, and advanced years of Mason, are all taken into consideration. So far from being strange, it was rather natural that one so happily circumstanced should have caught the common epidemic of apprehension, and dreaded lest the revulsion of those principles which had disorganized a neighbouring country, might, if inadvertently encouraged, effect similar fatalities in his native land, and thus unhinge the easy tenor of his own declining days. These conversions are to be explained, and to be lamented; for the abuse of a good cause is no argument against its promoters, and of all men the English ought to prize the benefits of a revolution. To return, however, to the volume of poetry, it is characterised by altered years, and subdued energy; much of it may be read without offence, but it cannot be considered any confirmation of the powers by which the author originally established his reputation.

Mason's death took place at his rectory, and was occasioned by a mortification in one of his legs, which he happened to graze on the shin as he was stepping into his carriage. He was married, but losing his wife, in 1767, when she was only twenty-eight, left no family. She was the daughter of William Shearman, Esq. of Kingston-upon-Hull, and lies buried in Bristol Cathedral, where a monument is erected to her memory, inscribed with some affec-

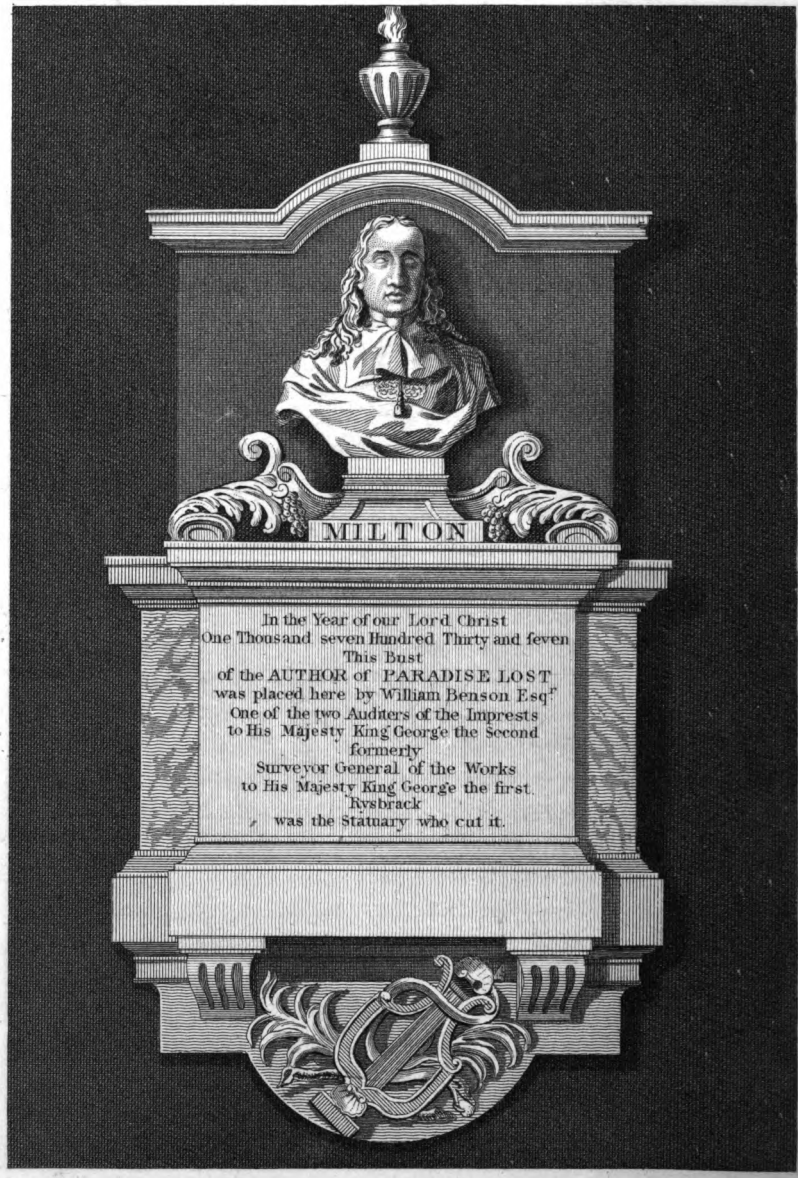
Digitized by Google

tionate lines of his own composition. In private life he was esteemed an exemplary character of active worth and extensive benevolence, qualities which were rather depreciated by an air of stateliness, and confident superiority. Such traits naturally detracted somewhat from his popularity, but are stated to have never incommoded the exercise of his virtues: they were, in all probability engendered by clerical habits, and a provincial residence. In letters he was rather an accurate than a splendid genius, oftener bold than uncommon, and more impetuous than sublime. His reputation is now mainly preserved by 'Elfrida' and 'Caractacus,' poems, of which it is observable, that the former is more cautiously written than the latter, and the latter more successful than the former. 'Elfrida' violates the truth of history in facts the most important and tragical; where the embarrassment of the plot is deepest, it is voluntary; and where it is the most likely to affect the reader, it is only partially felt by the agent; the intervention of the chorus seems always fortuitous, and the catastrophe, because strictly conformable to the Grecian model, is indirect, feeble, and unmoving. The language, however, is uniformly classical, and the imagery attractive. But in 'Caractacus,' he has taken a greater license, with a far happier effect. The story is true, the action varied and rapid, and the chorus felicitously appropriate; for it was the province of the Druidical bards to found their subjects for vocal effusions and instrumental accompaniments upon moral and religious truths. From this judicious combination of harmonious circumstances Mason has produced a noble drama: as the scene is sublime, the descriptions are grand; as the incidents are awful, so is the style grave; as the characters are elevated, so are the thoughts lofty, the imagery magnificent, and the language refined. Of all the compositions by which we have as yet essayed to emulate the ancient dramatists, and of all the translations by which we have endeavoured to render their beauties into English, there is no composition which surpasses Mason's 'Caractacus' in pure majesty, elegant taste, and commanding interest. If there be any part which the fastidious can desire to see better, (and where is the mortal labour for which the imagination will not suggest improvements?) it may, perhaps, be remarked, that throughout the odes the numbers of the couplets are not always accurately respondent—in them the ear is occasionally disap-

Digitized by Google



Digitized by Google


MILTON
In the Year of our Lord Christ
One Thousand seven Hundred Thirty and seven
This Bust
of the AUTHOR of PARADISE LOST
was placed here by William Benson Esq.r
One of the two Auditers of the Imprests
to His Majesty King George the Second
formerly
Surveyor General of the Works
to His Majesty King George the first.
Rysbrack
was the Statuary who cut it.

London

Published by

JOHN [illegible]

as the Act directs

June 1829

Digitized by Google

pointed. Those who are thoroughly impressed with the effect of Dryden's celebrated ode for example, will not fail to remember that, in that matchless lyric, there is a sublimity in the very falls of the metre; the sounds seem sensible, and almost rival the meaning of the words.—It is remarkable that Mason thought 'Elfrida' better than 'Caractacus,' and of all his compositions plumed himself highest upon the 'Essay on Gardening,' a work already nearly forgotten—dry in its language, and poor in its ideas. This supplies another instance of the mistakes to which authors are liable in estimating their labours, and almost goes to prove that poets, like mechanics, value most what requires the greatest pains.

MILTON.

No one can look at the monument which is erected to Milton, in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey, without an indignant sense of the mean proportion, too frequently recurring throughout these aisles, between the merit of the man and the respectability of his tomb. The grave of Chaucer has not a line to indicate the spot; Spencer has received no greater honour than a plain marble tablet; but Gay, Prior, and Rowe, have two and three statues apiece, as large as life, to express their peculiar talents, and commemorate their virtues; while the memory of such men as Butler, Dryden, and Milton, is only marked by ordinary busts. The fate of Milton, in this respect, is, perhaps, the most undeserving of all others: he has received no other compliment than a bust, shaded by a flat arch of black marble, on a heavy pedestal tablet, with an inscription, of which but two lines concern him; six of the remainder being appropriated to a Mr. Benson, who erected it; two to Rysbrack the artist, who executed it; and two to the year in which it was put up—alto-

Digitized by Google

gether the vainest economy of information to be found in the whole Abbey.

John Milton was born at the Spread-Eagle, in Bread-street, Cheapside, on the 9th of December, 1608. His father was disinherited from the family estate, situated at Milton, in Oxfordshire, for renouncing the Catholic religion, and being thus necessitated to adopt a profession, practised as a musician according to some, and as a scrivener according to others. But whatever were his pursuits, it is admitted that he acquired not only reputation, but wealth, and took especial pains with the education of his son. From St. Paul's School, for which he was prepared by a private tutor, he had him passed as a pensioner to Christ's College, Cambridge, in February, 1624, and was not long left without the most gratifying proofs of his talents and acquirements; for Milton began to publish at as early an age as sixteen. His first productions, as was then more commonly the custom than now, were in Latin; and it may, perhaps, suffice, for the interest of this work, to characterise his writings in that language, by repeating, that Doctor Johnson considered Milton to be the first Englishman, after the revival of letters, who composed Latin verse with classical purity. This priority, however, is denied by many; and, indeed, is rather hastily adjudged by the Doctor, whose opinions, perhaps, would have been oftener thought inconsiderate, if they had been delivered in a less dictatorial manner.

Milton is said to have entered the University with an intention of becoming a clergyman, but, unfortunately, disagreements of so serious a nature broke out between him and the masters of his College, that he imbibed a strong and insuperable aversion, not only to their discipline, but to their religion also. Notwithstanding the proficiency of his studies, he suffered the disgrace of corporal punishment, under all those circumstances of brutal severity with which it was formerly administered in our public schools. Nor did his mortifications end here: he was also condemned to a temporary expulsion. The grounds for this treatment have never been known; and though Milton returned to Cambridge, and there took his degree of Bachelor of Arts, in 1628, and of Master in 1632, he never after spoke of the place in terms either of affection or respect. To these circumstances

Digitized by Google

must, in all probability, be attributed that spirit of hostility which always continued to embitter his opinions against the Episcopal Church of England.

The five next years of Milton's life were spent with his father at Horton, in Buckinghamshire, during which time he is said to have occupied himself in reading over all the Greek and Latin authors, in writing his 'Mask of Comus,' for the Earl of Bridgewater's children, and composing his 'Lycidas,' in commemoration of a departed friend. In 1638 his mother died, and he prevailed upon his father to let him set out to travel through France and Italy, with this quaint axiom for his preceptor—'thoughts close, and looks loose.' On the Continent his introductions were most respectable, and his reception the most flattering. At Paris he visited the learned Grotius; at Florence the leading men of letters addressed odes to his name, and at Rome the same honours were trebled in number. The Cardinal Barberini, and Manso, Marquis of Villa, the patron of Tasso, vied with each other to distinguish him; he visited Galileo in the prison of the Inquisition, and made a circuit of the other principal cities in the Italian States, under equal circumstances of politeness and approbation.

Returning from abroad, because the differences between the King and Parliament had broken out into violence, he took a house in Aldersgate-street, where he boarded scholars; and became a political writer, first for the presbyterians, and afterwards against them. At his school he laboured with exemplary attention, setting the boys under his care a philosophical pattern of hard study and spare diet. Neither was he at all negligent in the use of his pen. But what came from it for some time after this period is neither instructive to peruse, nor grateful to think of: he decried the cause of Charles, and successively supported the interests of the Commonwealth, of Oliver Cromwell, and his unambitious son Richard. These services procured him the situation of Latin Secretary to the government; in which capacity he conducted all the foreign correspondence of the state, even after the total loss of his sight. But he does not seem to have possessed much power or influence: he had no hand in the plots, and took no active part in the revulsions of that sanguinary period; but he justified all that was done, and, above

Digitized by Google

all, the execution of the king. To these political engagements there is one happy exception—the publication in 1645, of a collection of Latin and English Poems—among which are those gems, 'L'Allegro' and 'Il Penseroso.'

Milton, though thrice married, is not represented as ever happy in that state. He first entered upon it in his thirty-fifth year, with Mary, daughter of Richard Powel, a justice of the peace, living at Forest Hill, in Oxfordshire. But her distaste for the confinement of a schoolmaster's habits was so great, that upon the first opportunity, she got leave to visit her friends, and once with them peremptorily refused to return home. In this predicament he determined to hold her conduct a justification for divorce, and published some treatises explanatory of his view upon the subject. He had even begun to pay his addresses to another lady, when his wife threw herself unexpectedly before him on her knees, and by tears and entreaties moved him to forgiveness. She died in child-bed, leaving him three daughters. The second wife was Catherine, the daughter of Captain Woodcock, of Hackney, who died within a year after their union; and the last, Elizabeth Minshul, the daughter of a Cheshire gentleman, who survived him, and then cheated the daughters, whom she had oppressed during his lifetime, of 1500*l.* which was the residue of his fortune.

All his wives were virgins, and he is said to have maintained that it was a disgrace to man to take any other to his bed. This feeling is vividly preserved in the description he gives of Chastity:

> She that hath that is clad in complete steel,
> And like a quiver'd nymph with arrows keen
> May trace huge forests, and unharbour'd heaths,
> Infamous hills, and sandy perilous wilds,
> Where, through the sacred rays of chastity,
> No savage lewd, bandit, or mountaineer,
> Will dare to soil her virgin purity:
> Yea, there where very desolation dwells,
> By grots and caverns, shagg'd with horrid shades,
> She may pass on with unblench'd majesty,
> Be it not done in pride or in presumption.
> Some say, no evil thing that walks by night,
> In fog or fire, by lake or moorish fen,
> Blue meagre hag, or stubborn unlaid ghost,

Digitized by Google

That breaks his magic charms at curfew time,
No goblin, or swort fairy of the mine
Hath hurtful power o'er true virginity.
Do ye believe me yet, or shall I call
Antiquity from the old schools of Greece,
To testify the arms of Chastity?
* * * *
So dear to Heaven is saintly Chastity,
That when a soul is found sincerely so,
A thousand liveried angels lacquey her,
Driving far off each thing of sin and guilt,
And in clear dream, and solemn vision,
Tell her of things that no gross ear can hear;
Till oft converse with heavenly habitants
Begin to cast a beam on th' outward shape—
The unpolluted temple of the mind,
And burns it by degrees to the soul's essence
Till all be made immortal!

The revolt under Milton's first marriage has been supposed by several of the commentators to have supplied him with the pith for more than one of Adam's addresses to Eve. As for instance:

Oh Woman, best are all things as the will
Of God ordain'd them: his creating hand
Nothing imperfect or deficient left
Of all that he created, much less man,
Or aught that might his happy state uphold
Secure from outward force. Within himself
The danger lies, yet lies within his power:
Against his will he can receive no harm.
* * * *
Not then mistrust but tender love enjoins
That I should mind thee oft, and mind thou me.
Firm we subsist, yet possible to swerve,
Since reason not impossibly may meet
Some specious object by the foe suborn'd,
And fall into deception unaware,
Not keeping strictest watch as she was warn'd.
Seek not temptation then, which to avoid

Digitized by Google

Were better, and most likely if from me
Thou sever not; trial will come unsought.
Wouldst thou approve thy constancy? approve
First thy obedience; the other who can know
Not seeing thee attempted—who attest?
But if you think trial unsought may find
Us both securer, than thus warn'd thou seemest,
Go; for thy stay, not free, absents thee more;
Go in thy native innocence; rely
On what thou hast of virtue—summon all—
For God towards thee hath done his part; do thine.

To his second wife, and the only one he is said to have ever loved, he addressed the following sonnet, rather a dull one in its way, after her death:—

Methought I saw my late espoused saint
Brought to me like Alcestis from the grave,
Whom Jove's great son to her glad husband gave,
Rescued from death by force, tho' pale and faint.
Mine, as whom wash'd from spot of child-bed taint
Purification in the old law did save,
And such as yet once more I hope to have
Full sight of her in Heaven without restraint,
Came vested all in white, pure as her mind:
Her face was veiled, yet to my fancied sight,
Love, sweetness, goodness, in her person shin'd
So clear, as in no face with more delight.
But oh! as to embrace me she inclin'd,
I wak'd, she fled, and day brought back my night.

The restoration of Charles the II. put an end to Milton's political career; and even filled him with fears for the safety of his person, which few men who consider either the boldness of his past writings, or the station he filled, will think altogether groundless. But every cause for apprehension was soon removed; for except the censure reflected upon him by the order, which condemned his principal party work, the '*Defence of the People*,' to be burned by the common hangman, no notice whatever was

Digitized by Google

taken of his conduct; and the Act of Oblivion, as it was termed, soon gave security to his person.

Two stories are told to account for the ease with which he was permitted to glide into safe retirement; but neither the one nor the other can be traced to an authority. The first relation is, that Milton's interposition saved Sir William Davenant's life during the Commonwealth, and that Davenant returned the obligation by interceding for Milton after the Restoration. The other account reports, that in order to divert the pursuit of his enemies, he feigned himself dead, and had his funeral publicly celebrated, a jocular expedient, which preserved his retreat undisturbed until the first heats of the triumphant party were over, and then so amused the King, that he interdicted any farther molestation. All this seems very improbable, and may perhaps be set down as raw gossip. It appears certain, however, that the House of Commons ordered the Attorney-general to prosecute him, that he was actually in the custody of the Sergeant-at-arms in December, 1659, and that he was brought up to the bar of the House for refusing to pay his fees when released. But how this release was effected, and how the question of fees was disposed of, are points utterly unknown.

This lenity was not without effects upon which no Englishman can reflect without exultation. Henceforward Milton almost entirely abandoned the rough paths of controversy, political as well as religious, and took up a studious residence in Bunhill-fields, somewhere about 1662. Though reduced in fortune, and totally blind, the vigour of his mind was still unimpaired; and there he was to be seen sitting at his door in a loose coat of grey or coarse cloth, to enjoy the freshness of the air, and receive the visits of his friends; among whom he ranked many that were learned, and some that were titled. There, too, he composed his 'Paradise Lost,' under increased difficulties; for the gout, which had long troubled him, now became so painful, that it deprived him of the use of his limbs, and he was obliged to be swung in a chair for exercise. In this melancholy state his only recreation was to play on an organ after dinner: his favourite hours for composing were early in the morning, and before he slept at night; and what he had put together in his mind, was casually reduced

Digitized by Google

to paper by the first hand that came to him. The rest of his time he spent in hearing his daughters read; and to so extraordinary a pitch did he succeed in training them, that though unable to write, and unacquainted with any of the languages, he nevertheless accustomed them to read Hebrew, Greek, Latin, French, and Italian, all with sufficient fluency to be well understood.

'Paradise Lost,' though finished in 1665, did not make its appearance until 1667. It was sold to Samuel Simmons for five pounds, with a reservation of five pounds after the sale of each of the three first editions, which were limited to 1500 copies a-piece. The right of copy, after this third edition, was to revert to the author, who did not, however, live to enjoy the title, and his widow sold all claim to it for eight pounds, in 1690. The miserable amount of these different payments, and the time that elapsed between each of them, have induced a common belief, that the merit of this sublime poem, beyond all comparison the first that has ever been written, was scarcely known until the time of Addison's meridian. Had such been the fact, it were an indelible disgrace upon the nation; but, perhaps, a few observations from Dr. Johnson may be enough to show that the case is really not so bad. Addison was certainly the first man either of talent or rank, who paid the compliment of his public praise to the beauties of 'Paradise Lost;' but this by no means unequivocally condemns either the taste or judgments of his predecessors, particularly when we recollect how absolute the crown was before the revolution, and that Milton, at the Courts of Charles the II. and James the II. was held as little better than one of their father's regicides. A man of letters then had scarcely a hope of competent support without the patronage of his sovereign; and who that was honest enough to praise Milton, could be vain enough to expect promotion? But the principal point for consideration, in the matter of this national justification, is whether 4500 copies was a sufficient sale for the *time*. Education then was far different, and incomparably more limited than it is now; and even amongst the greater part of those who enjoyed the blessings of it; almost every thing that was liberal, polite, and exalted, was discountenanced either by the crudeness of religious sectaries, or the affectation of foreign tastes. Hence, perhaps, it ought in candour

Digitized by Google

to be acknowledged, that, though far under the circulation its transcendent merit entitled it to, still, that the sale of 'Paradise Lost,' was, under all circumstances, sufficiently extensive to save the nation from the reproach of insensibility to a work of such superiority.

To enter into any disquisition upon a poem now at least so well known, and so thoroughly appreciated—to recapitulate its sublimities, and to attempt to enumerate its beauties; or even to pick out those faults which are to be detected in it, because they must unavoidably accompany every process of human ingenuity, would be the labour of supererogation. It may then suffice to add, that in so short a period as three years, Milton produced a 'History of England,' 'Sampson Agonistes,' and 'Paradise Regained.' Of the two last it is said, that the former is generally praised above its desert, and the other is far less considered, than its excellence deserves. Critics may think as they please of the estimation in which the tragedy ought to be held, but, it cannot be doubted that 'Paradise Regained' is greatly undervalued by the generality of readers. Milton fancied it the happiest of all his poems; the world scarcely deign to commend it, because it is inferior to 'Paradise Lost:' and yet it is but probable that, had it emanated from any other mind, public opinion would have more justly elevated it into competition with its predecessor. As the case stands, it only furnishes another exemplification of the truth of that forcible proverb, which declares that a man's greatest enemy is himself.

Such was the condition in which Milton approached the end of his days. He lived retired, but respected; in his youth brightened by an almost precocious reputation, in his middle life humbled and disappointed; but in his old age, though slowly, still securely overcoming the rugged ascent to everlasting fame. He died in quiet, on the 10th of November, 1677, in the 66th year of his age, and was buried with many marks of tenderness and splendour, in the chancel of St. Giles's Church, Cripplegate.

Thus far only the more prominent passages of Milton's life and the more memorable of his writings have been sketched: a catalogue of those works, not already noticed, is therefore subjoined, according to the order in which they were printed. In 1641, he brought forward 'A Treatise of Reformation,' in two books,

Digitized by Google

which was designed to aid the Puritans against the established church. This was followed by 'Of Prelatical Episcopacy, and whether it be deduced from the Apostolic Times, by virtue of those Testimonies, which are alleged to that Purpose in some late Treatises, one whereof goes under the Name of James Lord Bishop of Armagh.' In 1642 appeared 'The Reason of Church Government urged against Prelacy,' by Mr. John Milton; to which, in consequence of the remarks with which it was assailed, he added two more pamphlets upon the same subject during the course of the year. 'The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce,' was succeeded by 'The Judgment of Martin Bucer, concerning Divorce, in 1644; and in 1645, appeared 'Tetrachordon, Expositions upon the four chief Places of Scripture which treat of Marriage.' These were the publications by which he appeared to smooth a way for the repudiation of his first wife; they were severely animadverted upon by the clergy, who petitioned the House of Peers to call the author to their bar, a suit which, though granted, appears to have availed little, for he was speedily dismissed, either out of favour or indifference. To this year, 1645, has also been ascribed 'Areopagitica, a Speech by Mr. John Milton, for the Liberty of Unlicensed Printing,' and the volume of Latin and English poems, in which 'L'Allegro' and 'Il Penseroso' were first inserted. A Treatise to compose the minds of the People after the King's death; 'Remarks on the Articles of Peace between Ormond and the Irish Rebels;' and 'Iconoclastes,' a critical censure of 'Icon Basilike,' instigated by the Council of State, came next in rotation. Being required by the same authority to prepare an answer to the 'Defensio Regis,' published by Salmasius, at Leyden, he finished, in 1651, 'Defensio Populi,' a work highly praised for style, but little thought of for argument. The same remark applies to the 'Defensio Secunda,' which he completed three years after. 'A Treatise of Civil Power in Ecclesiastical Cases, and the Means of removing Hirelings out of the Church,' was sent to the press in 1659; and the Protectorate of Richard Cromwell was graced with two minor pamphlets—'A ready and easy Way to establish a free Commonwealth;' and 'Notes upon a Sermon preached by one Griffiths, entitled 'The Fear of God and the King.' In 1661, he aided the labours of the schoolboy, by a little book, 'Accidence com-

Digitized by Google

menced Grammar;' and next immortalised the year 1667, by 'Paradise Lost,' of which the first edition, consisting of ten books, was printed in small quarto; the second, consisting of twelve books, by dividing the seventh and tenth, appeared in small 8vo., in 1674; and the third, in the same size, came out in 1678. The 'History of England,' already noticed as the production of the same year, 1667, which gave birth to 'Paradise Regained,' and 'Sampson Agonistes,' extends no farther than the Norman Invasion, and is very injudiciously collated. In 1672, he mildly relapsed into the doctrines of a tutor, by bringing forward—'Artis Logicæ plenior Institutio ad Petri Rami Methodum concinnata: 'A complete System of Logic, arranged according to the Method of Peter Ramus.' His last labours are now to be recorded; and of them it may be remarked, that the one had been better omitted, and the other seems to have sprung from a mere cacoethes imprimendi; for there can now be few to relish a 'Treatise of True Religion, Heresy, Schism, Toleration, and the best means to prevent the Growth of Popery;' and there are none to avail themselves of his volume of 'Familiar Epistles and Academical Exercises,' in Latin. Milton's Toleration, it is to be observed, is given to all who found their faith upon scripture solely; but is, nevertheless, denied to the Catholics, because, though they appeal to Scripture, they also appeal to other testimony; and for this difference, he would allow them to enjoy neither public nor private worship. Such, for a series of years, was the number of compositions known to have emanated from the great author of 'Paradise Lost;' but in 1823, Mr. Lemon, an assistant in the Secretary's office for the Home Department, discovered amongst the old manuscripts of the office, a Latin treatise on the Christian Faith, ('De Fide Christianâ,') which has been pronounced the work of Milton, upon intrinsic evidence. It is distinguished by the same classical language and innovating doctrines which characterise the whole of his controversial labours, but can now be regarded rather as a curiosity than an acquisition in literature.

A few words descriptive of Milton's person, habits, and fortune, will complete all that the narrow limits of this volume enable the writer to present to his readers. In youth his complexion was remarkably fair, his hair, a light brown, parted in the forehead,

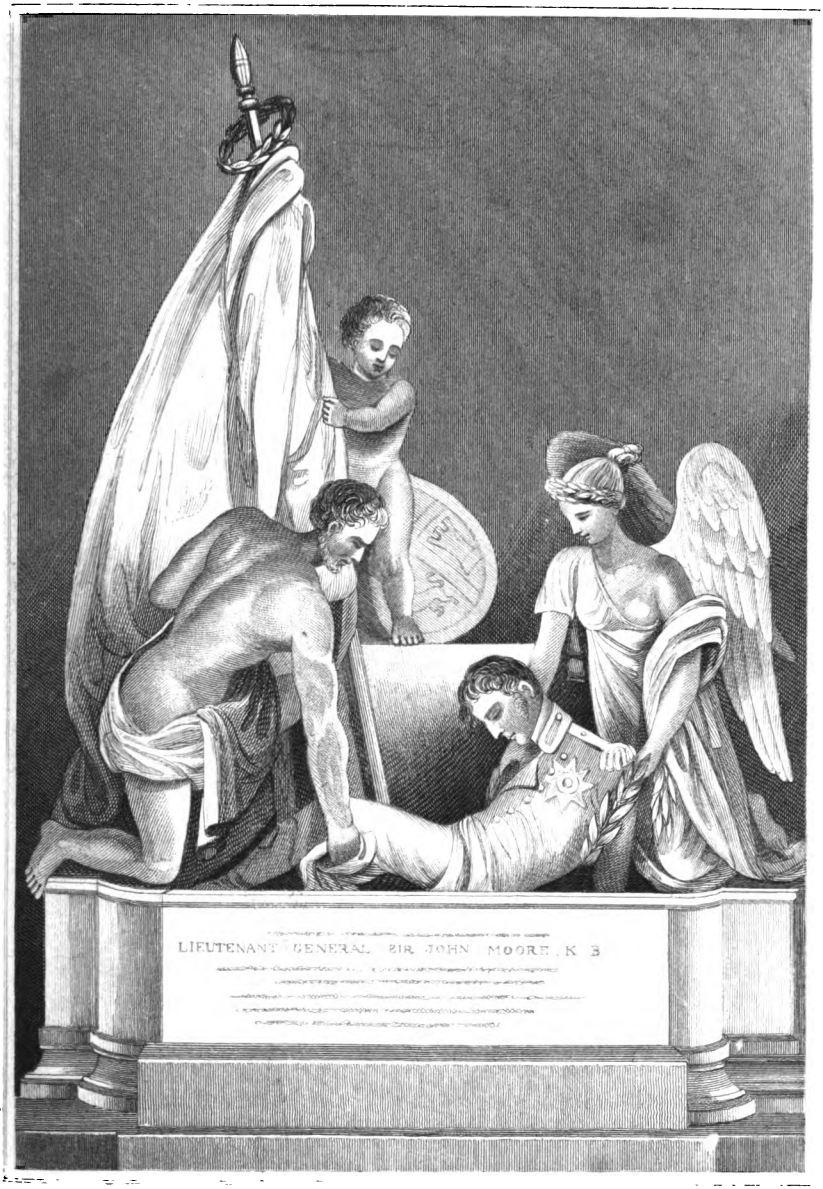
Digitized by Google

and hung down on his shoulders: he was rather low in stature, and as he grew old, stout. His strength and activity were great, he fenced dexterously, and delighted in the exercise. Of wine or any strong drink he took little, and ate frugally. He rose at four in summer, and five in winter; dined at one, supped at eight, and after a pipe and a glass of water, retired to bed. What property he received from his father does not appear, but it is clear that he lent the bulk of it to the Parliament during the civil wars, and never received back the loan. His salary, when Latin Secretary, amounted to 200*l.* a year; he received 1000*l.* for his 'Defence of the People,' and was farther rewarded for his political labours, by a grant of a small estate, producing 60*l.* a year, which belonged to Westminster Abbey, and was taken from him at the Restoration. His widow reported that he lost 2000*l.* which he entrusted to a scrivener, and 2000*l.* more, which he placed for better security in the Excise Office. A short time before his death he sold his library, but left his family 1500*l.*, which were seized by his widow, who gave a hundred pounds to each of two surviving daughters, and reserved the rest for her personal enjoyment.

SIR JOHN MOORE.

The monument to Sir John Moore stands in the south transept of St. Paul's Cathedral, and is the work of Bacon, jun. It is large enough to be good enough; but the idea is dull, and the execution common. Valour and Victory are seen lowering the general into a grave, with a wreath of laurel; while the genius of Spain plants the standard of conquest over his grave. The tasteless style in which the monuments of our greatest heroes have been crowded with insipid figures of personification, has long been

Digitized by Google



LONDON

Published as the Act directs by Jno. Williams.

44. Paternoster Row. Jan.y 1820

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

a theme of public censure. An uninformed spectator, unable to read the inscriptions, would naturally suppose that many of these emblematical tombs were to commemorate the lives of some noblemen whose riches were far superior to their actions; and that the statuary, who was munificently paid for his labours, was obliged to redeem the barrenness of an uninteresting subject by the license of imagination. But when the spectator shall be informed that this tomb, for instance, stands to illustrate the memory of a man, whose death, occurring under the most kindling circumstances of bravery, furnishes a scene sublime as the poet, or the painter may desire; how will he not regret that the statuary should have abandoned the delineation of such glowing facts, for the representation of the poor conception before him?

The inscription runs as follows:—

Sacred to the Memory of
Lieutenant-General Sir John Moore, K.B.
Who was born at Glasgow in the year 1761.
He fought for his country
In America, in Corsica, in the West Indies,
In Holland, Egypt, and Spain;
And on the 16th of January, 1809,
Was slain by a Cannon-ball,
At Corunna.

General Sir John Moore was the first-born of five sons and a daughter, who composed the family of Dr. John Moore, a man better known to the world as an author than a physician. He spent his youth in Glasgow, and was educated by the care of his father, whom he accompanied, at the early age of fifteen, in a tour through Europe, when the young Duke of Hamilton became his private pupil. This advantage gave a polish to his manners, and a distinction to his views, which proved eminently serviceable to him during the rapid rise by which his fortunes were subsequently marked.

Destined for the army from his earliest years, he passed through the different grades of subaltern rank with great success, obtained his first colonelcy in the 52d foot, and in 1798 was gazetted a

Digitized by Google

Major-general. About this time he took his seat in the House of Commons as member for the Scots borough of Lanerk.

Few wars presented brighter scenes for military distinction than those which agitated Europe from its deepest centre to every extremity of the world, in consequence of the many vicissitudes which attended the rise and subversion of the French revolution. As soon as England was drawn into active opposition to its principles and practices, Sir John Moore became distinguished for his zeal and intrepidity in the Mediterranean. When our troops were forced to evacuate Toulon, the occupation of some fort immediately became as necessary for our naval as our military interests, and an offer of annexing Corsica to the British crown was most opportunely made at the very moment when such an event became most desirable. The better to ascertain the probabilities of success in such an undertaking, Lord Hood, who then commanded the British forces in those quarters, selected Sir John Moore to ascertain the extent of power which General Paoli possessed over his countrymen, and report the nature of the resources which might be depended upon in the event of an attack. The intelligence thus obtained, determined the Admiral to anticipate the designs of the French, who had already put forth to sea for the purpose of subjugating the island; and a landing of British troops was happily effected in 1795. While the siege of Martello engaged the exertions of one body of troops, Moore was detached with two regiments and a few field-pieces to seize on Fornelli. After laboriously dragging his cannon over a mountainous country, it was found impossible to effect this object by any such a summary movement as was anticipated; he was, therefore, obliged to wait the arrival of the heavy ordnance: but they no sooner came up, than he opened a fire on the town, while he assailed the troops posted before it, and carried the place with the most gallant despatch.

The French immediately evacuated Mollinchesco, and Calvi remained the only place in their possession throughout the island. To wrest this hold from their hands became an object of intense consequence to the British, and to Moore was the seizure of it entrusted. The resistance was great, and the assault, owing to the nature of its position, clogged with rude impediments; but once begun, it was prosecuted with vigour, and crowned with suc-

Digitized by Google

cess after a spirited contest and creditable loss. Moore, himself, received a severe wound on the head from the bursting of a bomb, but, though flowing with blood, bravely led the way into the place, at the head of his grenadiers. As he entered the town he was received by the commanding officer, General Stewart, who had witnessed the affair from an adjoining eminence, and proved the ardent sincerity of his approbation, by throwing himself into the victor's arms, and gratefully embracing him amidst the acclamations of the assembled troops.

When Sir Ralph Abercrombie was appointed to the command of an expedition against the West Indies, in 1793, he selected Moore as an able assistant in the undertaking. As soon as the troops reached the latitude of their destination, Demerara, Issequibo, and Berbice, fell into our hands without any memorable difficulty. At the reduction of St. Lucie, Moore served with the local rank of Brigadier-general. Landing, without much opposition, he advanced upon the village of Choe Bay, while the enemy retired to Morne Chabot, one of the strongest posts in the island. This was an eminence so important, that it became necessary to occupy it before any farther undertakings could be safely attempted. To effect this advantage, General Moore was ordered to advance at the head of 208 companies, by a circuitous pass, while General Hope marched forward with 550 companies, in a nearer and a more direct line. It was an attack by midnight, and the guides, either through ignorance or design, led Moore straight in front of a strong picquet, by which his progress was retarded, and the assault anticipated. In this distress, his only resource was to push on bravely without waiting for the co-operation of General Hope: he did so, overcame the disadvantages, and carried the post.

On the following day he seized upon Morne Fortune; but mischances again circumvented his progress; for, in consequence of a want of heavy artillery, the batteries were not taken until two days had elapsed. These successes led to the surrender of the Island, on the 25th of May, 1796, and Moore, returning to England, was raised to the rank of Major-general.

The little of interest to be gathered from our unsuccessful expedition to Holland, when the Duke of York was so unfavourably permitted to retire from the Continent, is more properly

Digitized by Google

alluded to in the life of Abercrombie. It is, therefore, enough to observe in this place, that Moore was honourably wounded during that period, and pass on to his more enviable services in the Egyptian campaign of 1801. Arrived in Aboukir Bay, so glorious from the preceding victory of the Nile, a rocket was discharged at three o'clock in the morning of the 9th of March, and the first division of the army, amounting to six thousand men, took their seats in the boats, and made straight for that part of the beach where the French appeared most formidable. The position of the latter was highly favourable: from a sandy hill, receding towards the centre like an amphitheatre, they poured a terrible discharge of shot, shell, and grape, which furrowed up the boiling waves around the advancing flotilla with the fury of a tempest. Nothing daunted by this danger, Moore leaped ashore at the head of the 23d and 40th infantry, and charged up the hill with fixed bayonet. This gallant movement succeeded as it deserved; the other troops effected a safer landing; the enemy retreated on Alexandria, and the invaders encamped, with their right on the sea, and their left on Lake Mandin.

At the battle of Aboukir, which is described in the life of Abercrombie, Moore was again wounded, while leading on the reserve with his usual intrepidity. Notwithstanding this accident, he took an active share in the siege of Cairo, and commanded the escort which led the surrendered enemy to a place of embarkation. The rapid series of victories which soon forced the French to abandon all designs upon Egypt, left him little that is memorable to perform; he returned to England, was constantly employed on the staff on account of his eminent ability as a disciplinarian; and in 1804, was named to the honours of a Knight of the Bath. In 1807, he superseded General Fox, as Commander-in-Chief of the Island of Sicily; and in 1808 passed over into Sweden with a body of 10,000 men, who were sent to re-inforce the King of that country. But the Swedish Monarch, not only refused to acknowledge his instructions, but vented his indignation of the terms in which they were couched, with a violence, which made the security of Moore's person highly questionable. He therefore retreated from Stockholm with secret despatch, and safely landed his troops in England.

It now only remains for us to speak of the last military com-

Digitized by Google

mand for which Sir John Moore was spared to his country, and say a few words of the melancholy victory of Corunna. The invasion of Spain by Bonaparte had proceeded with all the rapid dexterity for which that great general was celebrated; Madrid was in his hands, and the British troops already on the Continent, had retreated before Marshal Soult, when Moore arrived in Gallicia, with a fine body of reinforcements. No sooner had he effected a junction with his countrymen, than Bonaparte, flushed with recent victory, pressed forward at the head of superior numbers, and compelled the British to take shelter within the walls of Corunna. But even that place they were soon incompetent to hold, and then their sole refuge was in their ships and the sea. Accordingly every precaution was taken for an embarkation that experience could supply, or promptitude suggest, when, on the morning of the 16th of January, symptoms of a rapid and determined attack became visible along the lines of the enemy. To resist this or perish was the only alternative; and the choice was not long left unhonoured. An obstinate contest ensued, which lasted from noon until evening, during which period the movements of the two armies were various and obstinate, and all signalized by desperate assault, but superior defence. The two British Generals highest in command were borne helpless from the field; our loss in wounded and killed, was, moreover, considerable, but the enemy was beaten back, and ultimately the victors embarked in safety. The French did ample justice to the skill and bravery of Sir John Moore. Intercepted in his progress by a strong piece of water, he set the example to his men, as was usual with him, plunged into the ford, which was breast-high, and continued forward in the field until a cannon ball struck him mortally, and made it impossible for him to remain in action. Being carried in a blanket within the town, his enquiries after the fate of the day, and the personal safety of his aid-de-camps, were constant. When General Hope, on whom the command devolved after Sir David Baird lost his arm, arrived by the side of his bed, he expressed himself earnestly, but in broken sentences, 'Hope, Hope, I have much to say, but cannot get it out; I feel so strong, I fear I shall be long dying: I am in great pain. I hope the people of England will be satisfied—I hope my country will do me justice. You will see my friends as

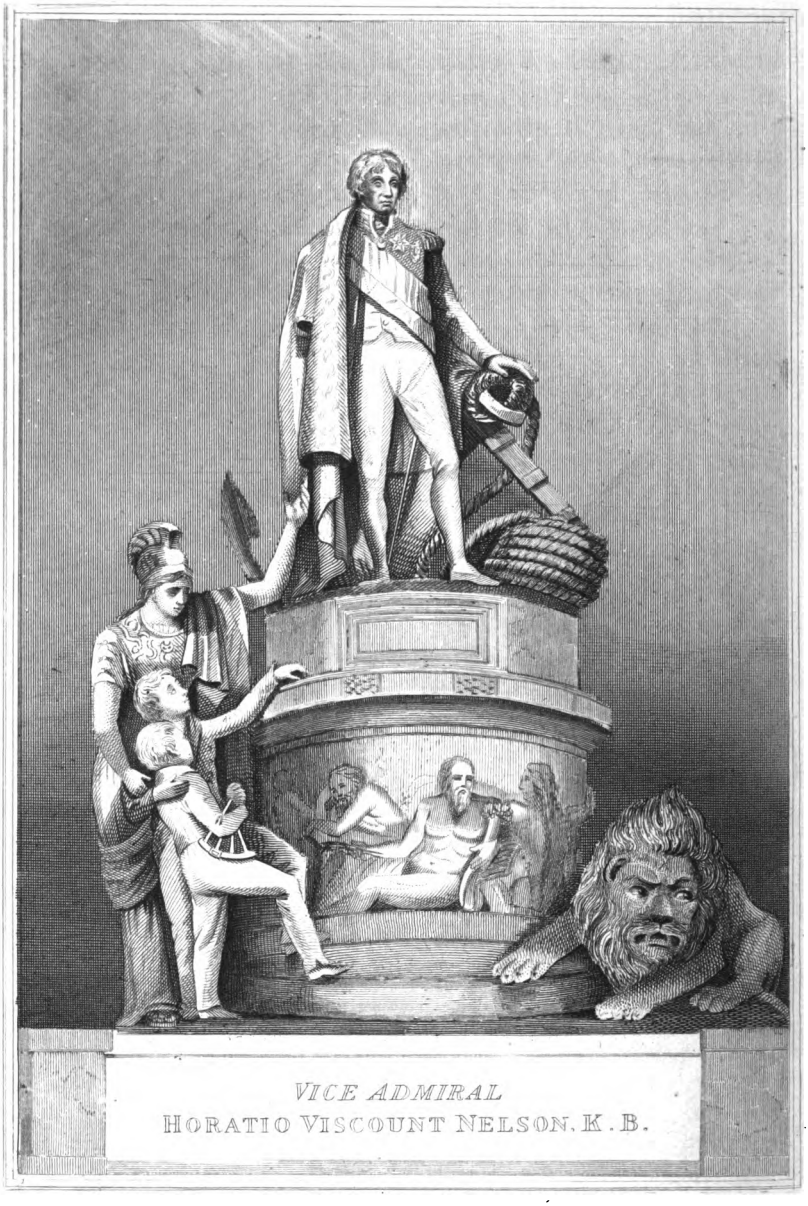
Digitized by Google

soon as you can—tell them every thing—tell my mother'—but here his voice failed him, and for a while he was silent. After an interval he again asked if the enemy were defeated, and being reassured of the fact, added—'It is a great satisfaction to me to have beaten the French. You know I have always wished to die this way. Is Colonel Graham, and are all my aid-de-camps well? I have made my will, and remembered my servants.' He then thanked the doctors for their attention—asked once more for his aid-de-camps, and expired without a struggle. At an early hour on the following morning a grave, only three feet deep, was hastily prepared for his remains in the bastion of Corunna, and there, while the enemy were still firing upon the little party who performed the obsequies, was his corpse deposited without a coffin! The scene was well fitted for the burial of a hero.

One of the best proofs which can be given of the merit of this great man, is to be found in the record of that deep sorrow by which his country marked its sense of his death, even without a dissentient voice, and the universally concurring approbation of all the officers who knew him. His military knowledge was clear, profound, and extensive; though his vigilance was unremitting, and his discipline exact, he was beloved by the army; and executed all the duties of his elevated command in a style which has by common consent ranked him among the first of his profession. Wounded early in the action at Aboukir, under Sir Ralph Abercrombie, he refused to leave the field, and continued to exhibit a force of exertion almost incredible to many when the severity of the wound was ascertained. In Holland he was also three times wounded before he could be led from the action. Many were the days which mainly depended upon Sir John Moore; in every quarter his example was the finest; in every country he exalted the character of his native land, and in death he was the twin-brother of General Wolfe!

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google



LONDON.

Pub.d as the Act directs by John Williams, 11 Paternoster Row.

January 1826.

Digitized by Google

HORATIO, LORD VISCOUNT NELSON, K. B.

BETWEEN the Dome and the Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral stands a national monument* to this most popular of British

* In the panel above is a monument by Bacon, to Captain Duff, who fell in the battle of Trafalgar. On the one side Britannia is represented bearing laurel for a sarcophagus, which is decorated with a medallion of the deceased, and on the other, a sailor appears in grief, with the British Flag. The inscription is cut as follows:—

Erected at the Public Expense
To the Memory of
Captain GEORGE DUFF,
Who was killed on the xxi of October,
MDCCCV.
Commanding the Mars,
In the Battle of Trafalgar,
In the Forty-second year of his age,
And the Twenty-ninth of his service.

Of this officer the following facts have been recorded. He was the son of James Duff, Esq. of Banff, in Aberdeenshire, and was born in 1764. A domestic tutor superintended his education until he was nine years old, at which period he ran away from home, and entered on board a merchantship trading between the neighbouring ports. But the Captain no sooner discovered his rank, than he sent him back to his father, who deeming it perverseness to oppose a disposition thus strongly evinced, directed his attention to the study of nautical science for two years, and in 1777 procured him a midshipman's commission on board the Panther, which then lay before Gibraltar, under the command of a relation, Commodore Robert Duff. Before he passed his sixteenth year, he had been in thirteen engagements, and was rewarded with a Lieutenancy. From the Mediterranean, where he

Digitized by Google

Admirals. It is executed by Flaxman, R. A., and presents a good statue of his Lordship, in the costume of his rank, resting his left hand on a cable anchor: the want of the right arm is concealed by a cloak thrown over the shoulder, which, as the guides assert, is intended to be a fur pelisse, the gift of the Grand Signior during the time of Nelson's service in the Mediterranean. The pedestal, a structure of noble dimensions, wrought with Sea Gods in alto relievo, is flanked on one side by a lion, couched, and on

was stationed in 1780, he went to the West Indies, under Lord Rodney; was present in all the engagements with the Count de Grasse, and was severely wounded before St. Lucie, by the falling of a mast, on board the Montague, In 1790 he was made a Captain, and appointed to the Martin sloop of war. Soon after this he married Sophia, the second daughter of Alexander Dixon, Esq. of Muiresk, and established his residence in Edinburgh. Being made a Post-captain in 1793, he was attached to the Mediterranean Fleet, but was soon removed to the West Indies, with the command of the Duke, of ninety guns. This ship being shivered by lightning in the subsequent attack on Martinique, he returned to England, but having the fortune to be again employed, he served at different intervals on the coast of Ireland, and in the North Seas, until a fleet mustered before Cadiz to encounter the naval strength of France and Spain united. In the great battle which ensued, the Mars was directed to lead the lee division, but was outrun at the onset by the superior sailing of the Royal Sovereign, which carried Lord Collingwood, and the Bellerophon. No sooner, however, did she come into action than a most desperate conflict took place. A French ship bore on her from either side; a first rate Spanish vessel was on her bow, and a fourth was within shot. Under these overwhelming odds, the larboard opponent, the Fougueux, soon showed signs of being disabled, but the smoke was so thick that it was impossible to determine her state precisely. Duff, therefore, gave orders to rake her, and stepped to the end of the quarter-deck to look over the sides, when a cannon-ball swept his head from his shoulders, and killed two sailors who stood behind him.

Captain Duff was a man of commanding appearance, but modest address: he was more than six feet high, strongly made, well proportioned, and agreeably featured. His crew were so warmly attached to him, that report said there was not a dry eye on board the ship when his death was announced. This attachment had been strongly proved on a former occasion, for during the period of the mutiny in 1797, the ringleaders confessed on their trial, at Portsmouth, that it was impossible to move Duff's crew, in consequence of the affection with which they regarded him. By his wife he had five children, of whom, however, only three, a boy and two girls, survived to join their mother in her affliction.

Digitized by Google

the other by a figure of Britannia, directing the eyes of two naval scholars to his Lordship. This allegory is miserable; and there is nothing in its style to redeem the fault of its introduction. On the cornice of the pedestal are inscribed the words:

Copenhagen. Nile. Trafalgar.

and on the pedestal itself is this poor epitaph:—

Erected at the Public Expense
To the Memory of
Vice-Admiral HORATIO VISCOUNT NELSON, K. B.
To record his splendid and unparalleled Achievements
During a life spent in the service of his Country,
And terminated in the moment of a glorious Victory by a glorious Death,
In the memorable action off Cape Trafalgar,
On the xxi of October, MDCCCV.

Lord Nelson was born on xxix of September, MDCCLVIII.
The battle of the Nile was fought on the 1st of August, MDCCXCVIII.
The battle of Copenhagen on the 11th of April, MDCCCI.

Lord Nelson's birth-place was the Parsonage House of Burnham Thorpe, in the County of Norfolk, a parish of which his father, the Reverend Edmund Nelson, was rector. His mother was Catherine, the second daughter of the Reverend Maurice Suckling, D.D. a Prebendary of Westminster; and Horatio was their fourth son. He was sent to the High School of Norwich, and afterwards to North Walsham; but could not have acquired much learning, for when only twelve years old, he entered as a midshipman on board the Raisonable, of sixty-four guns, then commanded by his maternal uncle, Captain Maurice Suckling. This ship was put into commission in consequence of a dispute with Spain, respecting the Falkland Islands; but the difference being adjusted without arms, the Raisonable was paid off before young Nelson had completed his outfit. For this dis-

Digitized by Google

appointment, however, his parents consoled themselves by adopting the advice of Captain Suckling, and sending him on a voyage to the West Indies in a merchantship. It has been stated, that when the life of a sailor was first proposed to young Nelson, he by no means relished the prospects it held out to him; and, it is moreover added, that upon his return from this first voyage, he was highly disgusted with the discipline and privations of the service. But his father, who had a large family, saw no other way of providing for him, and he was therefore prevailed upon, with some difficulty, once more to join his uncle, who was now stationed on board the Triumph, a guard-ship of seventy-four guns, at Chatham. The pains which this officer took to subdue his prejudices, and the zeal with which he fostered the inherent spirit of his character, have been noticed by all the biographers, as the circumstances which secured the glory of his subsequent career to the service of his country. This grateful desire was, to all appearances, soon accomplished, for when the expedition to explore a passage into the South Seas, through the North Pole, was undertaken by Captain Phipps, of the Race-Horse, in 1773, young Nelson volunteered to encounter the dangers of discovery. Here, however, his designs were again thwarted for a time: he had not yet completed his fifteenth year, and an order was issued by the Admiralty, which forbad all boys to be received on board. To overcome this obstacle, he offered to become coxswain of the Captain's barge, and was ultimately admitted to that humble post by Captain Lutwidge, who accompanied Captain Phipps, as second in command, on board of the Carcass sloop of war.

The history of this expedition is briefly told: the ships sailed from the Nore on the 4th of June, and made land at Spitsbergen on the 28th of the same month. Proceeding slowly forward through the frozen seas, they found themselves, on the 31st July, impenetrably blocked up by the ice at 81 degrees North latitude. In this state the officers not only abandoned all hopes of advancing farther, but began to entertain serious doubts of the practicability of a return. For five succeeding days the ships were bound immovably; a general destruction seemed to be the inevitable lot of the adventurers; and yet, amidst all these circumstances of imminent peril, did Nelson afford an early instance of that buoyant intrepidity, and utter recklessness of danger, which so

Digitized by Google

greatly distinguished his future actions. One night he was missed from the ships, and considerable apprehensions were felt for his safety. In the morning, however, he appeared on board with a broken musket, and a huge bear, which the intense cold of the night had not prevented him from hunting, and which, having broken the lock of his gun in the chase, he had finally mastered by beating its head with the but-end. The Captain took him to task in rather harsh terms for his absence, but he only pointed to his victim, and observed, that he *merely wished to obtain the skin for his father.*

To return to the expedition, however—a fortunate change of weather took place on the 10th of August; a strong wind parted the blockading ice; the ships got clear of all impediment, and returned to England without delay. They were paid off at the Nore, in September, but Nelson, now fully seized with naval ardour, immediately petitioned for employment, and was appointed to the Sea Horse frigate, commanded by Captain Farmer. Under this officer he repaired to the East Indies, and visited the Bay of Bengal, Bussora, and the Gulf of Persia. But this sudden transition from an extremely cold to an intensely warm climate affected his health. He fell seriously ill, and became so much enervated, that the Commodore on the station sent him home to England. Nor was this a mere passing malady, for his constitution was injured by the effects of the climate, and to his sufferings upon this occasion was attributed the delicate state in which he ever after lived.

On the 8th of April, 1777, after passing the usual examination before the board at the Admiralty, Nelson received a Lieutenant's commission, and was appointed to serve in the Lowestoffe, as the second officer of his rank. From this vessel, in which he cruised against the Americans, he was removed during the following year, to the Bristol, in which he became first Lieutenant, and was then made Captain of the Badger. On the 11th of June, 1779, he rose to the rank of Post Captain of the Hinchinbroke, and was stationed in the West Indies. A favourable opportunity for displaying his talents, as a commander, now presented itself; for an attack upon Fort San Juan, in the Gulf of Mexico, being determined upon, the Hinchinbroke was required to convey the troops which were ordered to carry the place. The enterprise succeeded;

Digitized by Google

and a sentence extracted from the dispatch in which the news was communicated, will serve to convey an idea of Nelson's conduct—"There was scarcely a gun fired," states the dispatch, "but what was pointed by the Captain of the Hinchinbroke, or the chief engineer."

After this little conquest, the Hinchinbroke was paid off, and her late Captain made a visit to his family. He did not, however, remain long inactive, for being put into the command of the Boreas, he sailed to the Leeward Islands, with his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, then Captain of the Pegasus, under his authority. It was upon this station that he married Frances, the widow of Dr. Nisbet, and daughter of William Woodward, Senior Judge of the Island of Nevis. The ceremony was performed on the 11th of March, 1787, and soon after the young couple returned from the Indies, and established themselves in quiet at the parsonage of Burnham Thorpe.

The English ministry had no sooner determined to interfere with the domestic affairs of France, than Nelson hastened up to London, and tendered his services at the Admiralty. They were accepted; and he was forthwith appointed to the Agamemnon, of 64 guns, and attached to the squadron under Lord Hood, in the Mediterranean. The achievements which he now, either in part aided, or solely effected, were various and highly gallant. After being present at the occupation of Toulon, he led a body of men at the siege of Bastia, and then lost an eye at Calvi. Increasing the brilliancy of his exploits as he proceeded, he next manned the boats of three ships which were placed under his command, and cut out four large store ships from Laona, and soon after captured several vessels laden with cannon and stores near Oneglia. For all these services, his name was successively mentioned with particular approbation by the Admiral, and was circulated with no mean respect amongst the enemy.

Passing over the action between Lord Hotham and the French fleet, on the 15th of March, 1795, in which the intrepidity of Nelson was twice checked by signals from the admiral, and merely recording the ease with which he subsequently took possession of the Island of Elba, we find him hoisting a Commodore's broad pendant on board of the frigate La Minerva, and capturing La Sabina, a forty-gun ship, in December, 1756. Early on the following year was the first to descry the enemy's fleet, and report

Digitized by Google

their force and state to Admiral Sir John Jervis. The English had only fifteen, the Spaniards seven and twenty sail of the line, but, notwithstanding this inequality of numbers, the blockade of Cadiz was abandoned, and a general engagement took place on the 14th of February, 1797. Upon this occasion, Nelson carried his pendant on board of the Captain, of 74 guns, commanded by Captain Miller, and performed feats the most desperate. The scheme of battle fixed upon by Sir John Jervis, was to break through the enemy, and this design was carried completely into effect before the Spanish Admiral had time to form his lines. While the disorder created by this successful movement was at its height, the signal for close fight was given, and Nelson encountered the Santissima Trinidada, a ship reputed the largest in the world, for she carried 136 guns, and mounted four decks. The intrepidity of this assault soon brought assistance to his relief, and he found himself required to engage a three decker, which acted as the Santissima's second. He therefore abandoned his first choice, and fought closely with the latter, until she lost her mizen-mast, and fell aboard a two decker, which had come up to her support. This third vessel, therefore, became Nelson's opponent, at a conjuncture, when he had nearly expended all his ammunition, and received so much damage that his ship was almost unmanageable. In this extreme, to board was the only alternative that presented itself to his mind, and desperate as the attempt appeared, he lost no time in putting it into execution. The word had scarcely been given, when it was triumphantly obeyed; and Nelson had barely time to pass from the forechains of his own ship, to the quarter-gallery of the enemy, and thence to her quarter-deck, before her Captain, who was mortally wounded, surrendered his sword, and the San Nicholas, of 80 guns, surrendered. But by this advantage a fresh emergency was created: the three decker, which had lately opposed him, being now placed directly amid-ships of the prize, poured a sharp volley from her poop and galleries upon the conquerors. Thus, to abandon the San Nicholas, or board again, were the only steps between which he had to choose. The former was speedily preferred, and after ordering a fresh body from the Captain to retain possession of the San Nicholas, he once more rushed forward at the head of his men, crying out aloud 'Victory! or Westminster Abbey.' For-

Digitized by Google

tune still favoured his intrepidity, or rather his ardour struck a panic on the enemy, for the moment the British appeared on the quarter-deck of the second ship, her commander advanced, and dropping on his knee, delivered up his sword. His ship proved to be the San Josef, of 112 guns. The victory was now complete; and it may be scarcely requisite to observe, that the principal share of its glory had been earned by Commodore Nelson.

The enthusiasm with which the news of this battle was received in England honourably corresponded with the spirit by which it was achieved. The officers were addressed in a vote of thanks by the two Houses of Parliament; Sir John Jervis was crowned with an Earldom; and Nelson was rewarded with the Order of the Bath, and a valuable gold chain and medal. In April, 1797, a general promotion took place in the Navy, through which, becoming Rear-admiral of the Blue, he relieved the garrison of Porto Ferajo. In the following month he shifted his flag into the Theseus, and assumed the command of the inner squadron, which at that moment was blockading Cadiz. Upon this station he distinguished himself by conducting, with his usual courage and resolution, two bombarding parties against the city on the nights of the 3d and 5th of July. These attacks were nobly resisted by the Spaniards, but enforced with a desperation which compelled the enemy to retire so discomfited on both occasions, that Lord St. Vincent declared it impossible to do justice to Nelson's merits.

The next exploit to which we find him directed, was the unsuccessful enterprise against Teneriffe, during the month of July, in the same year. Of this expedition, the command was given to Nelson, who, upon the first assault, had his right arm shattered by a cannon-ball, and was left senseless on the ground, while the storming party carried the town. But though victorious in their first destination, the British found it impossible to seize the fort, and were, therefore, constrained to negotiate for a retreat to the fleet, on board of which Nelson had already been conveyed by his son-in-law, Lieutenant Nisbit. His condition being eminently dangerous, he was speedily conveyed to England; the arm was amputated, but some months elapsed before the physicians were enabled to speak favourably of his health.

No sooner, however, did his recovery take place, than it was

Digitized by Google

proposed to settle a pension of a thousand a-year upon him, and by that gratuity in some measure compensate for the mutilations to which his person had been subjected, and reward the indefatigable devotion with which he had so eminently served his country. But before the grant could be made, the forms of the admiralty required that a distinct account of the claims upon which the bounty was sought, should be presented to the King. Nelson, therefore, drew up a lusty statement, which is inserted here as the best possible evidence of his professional reputation and personal character.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty,

The Memorial of Sir Horatio Nelson, K. B. and Rear-Admiral in your Majesty's Fleet.

"Showeth—That during the present war your Memorialist has been in four actions with the fleets of the enemy: viz. on the 13th and 14th of March, 1795, and on the 14th of February, 1797; in three actions with frigates; in six engagements against batteries; in ten actions in boats employed in cutting out of harbours, in destroying vessels, and in taking three towns. Your Memorialist has also served on shore with the army four months, and commanded the batteries at the sieges of Bastia and Calvi.

"That during the war he has assisted at the capture of seven sail of the line, six frigates, four corvettes, and eleven privateers, of different sizes; and taken and destroyed near fifty sail of merchantmen; and your Memorialist has actually been engaged against the enemy *upwards of one hundred and twenty times.*

"In which service your Memorialist has lost his right eye and arm, and been severely wounded and bruised in his body. All of which services and wounds your Memorialist most humbly submits to your Majesty's most gracious consideration.

"HORATIO NELSON."

"October, 1797."

Had such a desire ever held influence in his breast, it was now in Nelson's power to retire with credit from scenes of danger, and enjoy a life of ease and affluence, unchequered by the suffer-

Digitized by Google

ings of professional cares. He had an ample fortune, great honours, and unbounded popularity; and considering the disabled state of his person, might have given up the adversities of future service with the most decent propriety. But he seems to have been unalterably devoted to the navy, and quite unable to rest satisfied with the past, while the future presented a likelihood of augmenting the measure of his utility. Accordingly, he again joined the Earl of St. Vincent in the Mediterranean, and on the 7th of May, 1798, sailed to pursue the French fleet with which Bonaparte invaded Egypt. The destination of that extraordinary general was at first unknown, and Nelson, therefore, had to seek after him, at Naples, at Malta, at Sicily, at Alexandria, and at Syracuse. At length the enemy were discovered, on the 1st of August, moored in a compact line of battle, in the Bay of Aboukir. Their force consisted of 13 men-of-war, each mounting from 74 to 80 and 120 guns, and carrying from 700 to 1000 men, with four frigates, varying in the power of their ordnance, from 36 to 48 guns, and in the number of their men from 250 to 300. On an island, in their van, was a formidable battery of cannon and mortars, and at either side they were supported by a strong force of gun-boats. Nelson bore up with a fleet nearly equal in the number of ships, but much inferior in the number of guns, as well as of men, which it carried. The wind was high, and the day had far set in before he came close to his opponents, but he, nevertheless, resolved to proceed to battle on the instant. One after the other, the ships rode in upon the enemy at anchor, who discharged a tremendous fire from their van, and the fortifications on shore. But the opposition availed little: they laid themselves each alongside of an adversary, and the conflict soon became general. The day had passed, and only twilight remained, when, after a short but hot contest, Le Guerrier was dismasted; soon after Le Conquerant and La Spartiate were reduced to a similar state; ere long, L'Aquilon, Le Souverain Peuple, and Le Franklin, surrendered; and to close all, L'Orient, a noble ship with 120 guns, 1010 men, and the French admiral, commander-in-chief on board, took fire, and blew up with an awful explosion. Upon the following morning every ship had struck its colours, Le Guillaume Tell and Le General alone excepted: these, conscious of their danger, immediately cut their cables, and made sail; two frigates

Digitized by Google

followed the example; and thus four out of seventeen vessels escaped from the hands of the victors.*

The glory of this engagement, confirmed by the victories of Abercrombie on land, produced sensations the most vivid, and a

* Amongst the killed in this battle was Captain George Blagdon Westcott, who is commemorated in the north transept of St. Paul's Cathedral, by a monument from the chisel of Banks. The design, though somewhat simple, is inapt, representing upon a large pedestal, an almost naked figure of the deceased sinking into the arms of a clothed statue of Victory. Upon the pedestal appears a scene in basso-relievo, from the battle of Aboukir—the explosion of the French ship L'Orient. The recumbent figure in front is copied from an ancient personification of the river Nile. This is the inscription.—

Erected at the Public Expense
To the Memory of
GEORGE BLAGDON WESTCOTT,
Captain of the Majestic,
Who after 33 years of meritorious service,
Fell gloriously
In the Victory obtained over the French Fleet, off Aboukir,
The first day of August, in the year MDCCXCVIII.
In the forty-sixth year of his age.

Westcott was the son of a baker, at Honiton, in Devonshire, and is said to have been induced to become a seaman by the following simple circumstance.—On one occasion, being sent to the mill by his father, a rope happened to break in the machinery, and neither the miller nor his men could manage to repair the damage. In this dilemma young Westcott offered his services in splicing the rope, and completed the job, though attended with some danger as well as difficulty, so nicely, that the gratified miller exclaimed —"By the Lord lad, if you can splice so well, you must be only fit for a sailor; and if ever you feel an inclination to go to sea, why I'll try to get you a birth." Young Westcott soon did feel that inclination; and the miller proving as good as his word, he entered the naval service of his country in the humble capacity of a cabin boy. Here were no great provocatives to the vent of innate talent; nevertheless, he contrived to put himself forward with so much address, that he was in a comparatively short time introduced amongst the midshipmen. Study, perseverance, skill, and bravery, united, soon enabled him to appear with distinction; and he passed smoothly on through the intermediate grades of his profession, until he reached the command in which he lost his life. Had he survived this battle, he would have been entitled, by seniority, to the flag of an admiral—but his memory has received a more signal honour.

Digitized by Google

result the most signal throughout all Europe. The Emperor of Germany broke off a treaty for peace; the Ottoman Porte declared war against the French, and transmitted a diamond plume of triumph, and a pelisse of rare value to Nelson; the King of Naples marched an army to Rome, and soon after conferred upon him the Dukedom of Bronte, and an estate; while at home the highest exultation was indulged in, and the dignity of a Baron of Great Britain, under the title of Lord Nelson of the Nile, was awarded to the conqueror.

Instead of repairing to England, and enjoying the acclamations of popularity in its first generous bursts, Nelson proceeded to compose Sicily, and then Naples, places, which were at that moment distracted by armed parties, who were considered highly offensive to the interests of the British government. The people, discontented with their King, had lately driven him from his throne, and, emboldened by the influence of the French, had proclaimed a republic. After some encounters, however, the revolutionists were compelled to surrender, and a treaty guaranteed by the English, the Russian, and Turkish authorities, was signed by the Cardinal Ruffo, on the part of the King, through the conditions of which, those who laid down their arms were freely pardoned. But no sooner did the King resume possession of his capital, and see Lord Nelson at hand to protect him, than he publicly disavowed the authority upon which Cardinal Ruffo had appeased the insurgents, and issued an edict, by which martial law was left to take its brutal course with the offenders. In the perfidy of this conduct Lord Nelson was induced to concur, and so violently did he enforce its enactments, that even the British fleet was made a scene of execution! Room is not left to go into particulars upon this passage of his life; it was attended with some very moving circumstances; it was unjust and unfeeling; and, as censure is now unavailing, may be passed over as the only dark spot upon a bright and deserving character.

In 1799, Lord Nelson arrived in England, after an absence of three years, and was hailed with the most flattering marks of distinction and regard. But amidst these gratulatory scenes of quiet he was not long permitted to repose: in 1800 the Northern Confederacy was cemented by the animosity of France, and the trade

Digitized by Google

of Great Britain was menaced with exclusion from the Baltic. To counteract the injurious consequences of this combination, a fleet of 54 ships was equipped by the English ministry, which sailed from Yarmouth Roads, on the 12th of March, 1801, with Admiral Sir Hyde Parker as the chief, and Lord Nelson as the second commander. The admirals reached the Cattegat on the 29th of the same month, and immediately addressed a letter to the Governor of Cronberg Castle, in which, after alluding to the hostile disposition evinced by Denmark, it was demanded whether a free passage would be allowed by the fortress. The answer stated that the British could not be allowed to approach the guns of the castle, and Sir Hyde Parker impetuously declared that he regarded the notice as a declaration of war. Arrangements were immediately made to pursue this intimation to violence, and accordingly, the passage of the Sound was forced on the 30th, notwithstanding a resolute fire from the Danes. After reconnoitring the nature of the defences, which were eminently powerful, an attack upon Copenhagen was entrusted to the care of Lord Nelson. The 2d of April was chosen for the enterprise; and, at ten o'clock on the morning of that day, the firing commenced. The Danes opposed our advance with extreme spirit, and the battle raged fiercely for four uninterrupted hours.* During this time the English vaunted that seventeen sail of the defensive fleet were either sunk, burnt, or taken; but their principal batteries, and all the ships in the inner harbour were still untouched; while the injury done to the besiegers

* Two Captains, Moss and Riou, fell in this attack, and have been together honoured with a monument, which is placed in a recess under the East window of the North Transept in St. Paul's Cathedral. It was executed by C. Rossi, R. A., and consists of a double sarcophagus, to which are attached medallions of the deceased, supported by two statues, which are insignificant enough to all appearances, but are styled Victory and Fame by the guides. The inscriptions are neatly expressed in the following order:—

The Services and Death
of two valiant and distinguished officers,
James Robert Moss, Captain of the *Monarch*,
and Edward Riou, of the *Amazon*,
who fell in the attack upon *Copenhagen*,
conducted by Lord Nelson, 2nd April, 1801,

Digitized by Google

was unexpectedly heavy. It was, therefore, deemed prudent to try the effect of negociation, and a flag of truce was sent

are commemorated by this Monument,
erected at the National Expense.

JAMES ROBERT MOSSE
was born in 1746:
he served as Lieutenant
several years under Lord HOWE,
and was promoted
to the rank of Post-Captain in 1790.

To EDWARD RIOU,
who was born in 1762:
an extraordinary occasion was presented
in the early part of his service
to signalise his intrepidity
and presence of mind,
which were combined with the most anxious
solicitude for the lives of those under his command,
and a magnanimous disregard of his own.
When his ship, the *Guardian*, struck upon
an Island of Ice, in Dec. 1789, and afforded no prospect
but that of immediate destruction to those on board,
Lieut. RIOU encouraged all who desired to take their chance
of preserving themselves in the boats, to consult their safety;
but judging it contrary to his own duty
to desert the vessel,
he neither gave himself up to despair,
nor relaxed his exertions;
whereby, after ten weeks of the most perilous navigation,
he succeeded in bringing his disabled ship into port:
receiving this high reward
of fortitude and perseverance
from the Divine Providence
on whose protection he relied.

To this epitaph a short illustration seems desirable: the voyage in which Riou evinced such brave resignation, was one in which he was commissioned to convey stores from the Cape of Good Hope to our infant colony at Botany Bay. The greater part of the crew deserted him in his extremity, but he never once entertained a thought of any other course but that of steering the ship

Digitized by Google

by Lord Nelson to the Prince Royal of Denmark, which, after some complimentary letters and conferences, brought about an armistice between the contending parties, and, ultimately, a negotiation with Sweden, by the terms of which that power and Denmark united to remove all restrictions from the British trade in the Baltic.

Before these difficulties were composed, Sir Hyde Parker was recalled from active duty, and Lord Nelson succeeded to the chief command of the northern fleet. But little, however, was now left for him to execute on this station: the death of the Emperor Paul of Russia extinguished the northern confederacy; the fatigues of the service impaired his health, and he received permission from the Admiralty to resign his authority. Arrived in England, his presence was again hailed by the applause of his countrymen; both Houses of Parliament presented him with a vote of thanks, and the King advanced him to the dignity of a Viscount.

On the 30th of July, however, he again hoisted his flag on board the Leyden; but after the lapse of a few days shifted it to the Medusa, and set sail for the coast of France with an armament of forty sail, consisting of two men-of-war, fifteen frigates, gun-brigs, fire-ships, &c. &c. His object being the destruction of a French flotilla, moored off Boulogne, he stood in for the harbour of that town on the 4th of August, and made a vigorous but unsuccessful attack upon the shipping. On the following morning he passed over to Margate, but returned on the 15th, and gave orders for a more formidable assault, which took place at midnight, but failed, like the former one, to effect all that was

safely into harbour. This he at last accomplished, and upon his return to England was promoted to a Captaincy. In 1794 he was made a Post Captain, and appointed to the Beaulieu, in which he sailed to the West Indies. About this period the delicacy of his health incapacitated him from active service, and he was soon after honoured with the easy command of the Princess Augusta yacht. Recovering his strength, however, he petitioned for more active service, and in 1799 received the Amazon, a new frigate of 34 guns. In this commission he seems to have met with no opportunities of distinction. At the battle off Copenhagen his fate was extremely hard: no less than three vessels, the Agamemnon, Bellona, and Russell, failed to take up the stations assigned to them, and, in consequence of their absence, Riou was exposed to an overwhelming fire, which covered the deck of his ship with carcases, and at last deprived him of life.

Digitized by Google

hoped from the bravery of the men, and the spirit of their commander. A peace supervened in October, and Nelson struck his flag; he repaired to an estate which he had purchased at Merton, in Surrey, and spent the interval of national quiet in a state of retirement.

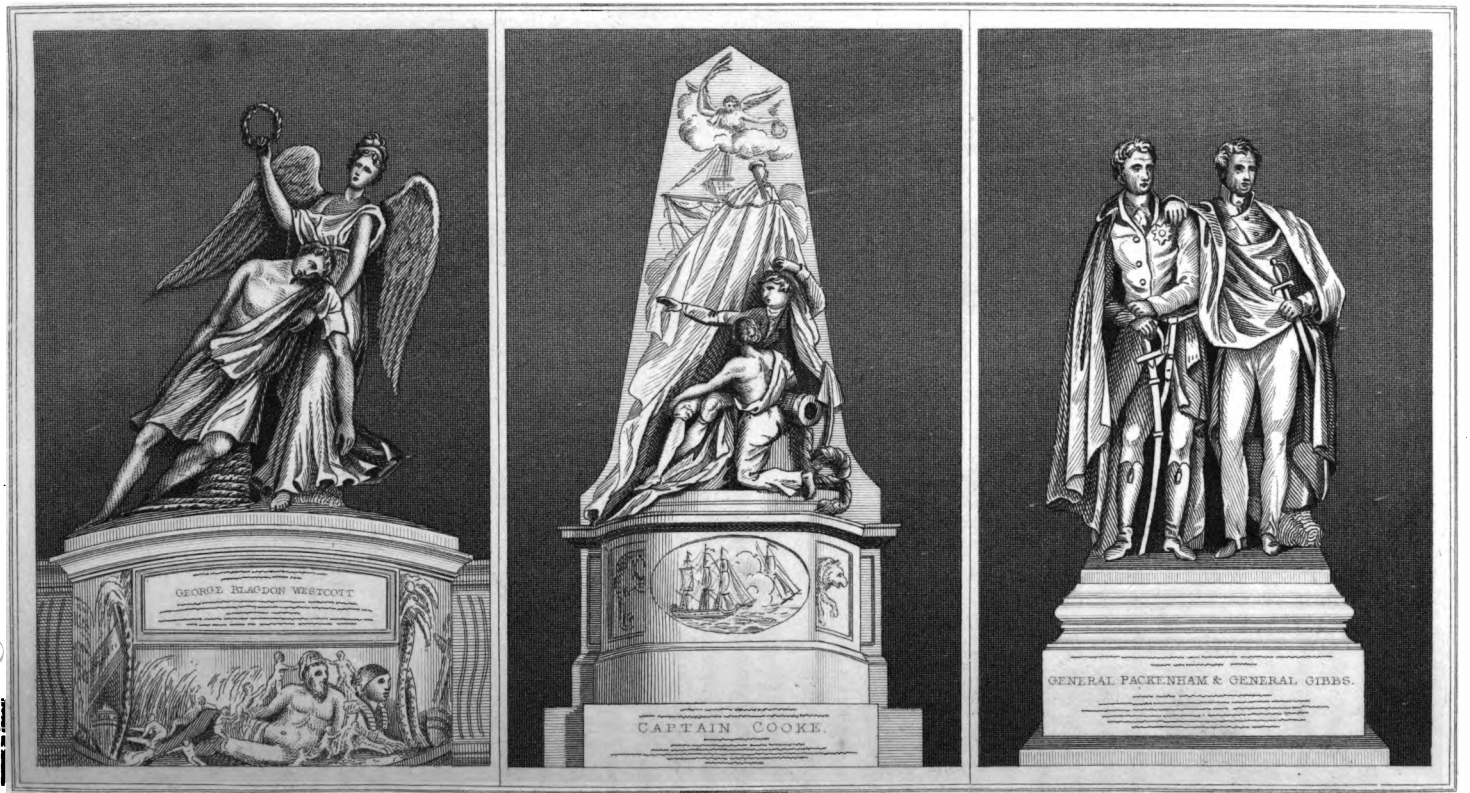
In 1803, hostilities were renewed, and Lord Nelson's services were engaged to command the squadron in the Mediterranean: his ship was the Victory of 100 guns, and he reached the rock of Gibraltar on the 12th of May. Some time passed before any movements of general interest were made; but by degrees the French assembled a fleet at Toulon, the Spaniards mustered their strength in the harbour of Cadiz, and it became an object of importance to the British to prevent a junction between these two powers. A severe blockade was therefore enforced, yet in this instance the enemy obtained a decided advantage. The French escaped out of Toulon, and, uniting with the Spaniards at Cadiz, made an uninterrupted sail for the West Indies, in March, 1805. Nelson immediately pursued them, and traversed the space of ocean between the continents of Europe and America with incredible rapidity: but he was alert to no purpose; for the allied fleets returned in secrecy, and again took up a station before Cadiz, without meeting with a single obstacle.

The disappointment experienced by these movements filled Nelson with deep chagrin: positive intelligence, however, was soon after received in London, that the French and Spanish squadrons were equipping themselves for another excursion; and on the 15th of September, 1805, he left England for the last time, animated with a spirit of the most desperate resolution, and carrying his flag on board the Victory of 100 guns. Apprehending that the enemy might be deterred from putting their design into execution, if the amount of the force under his command became known to them, he stationed the main body of his fleet behind Cape St. Mary, and only posted a smaller detachment in sight of Cadiz. Several manœuvres were subsequently resorted to for the express purpose of deceiving the enemy, and on the 19th of October, they sailed from Cadiz, to every appearance confident that only an inferior force was opposed to their passage.

On Monday, the 21st instant, the two fleets came in sight at a distance of about six leagues from Cape Trafalgar, and that

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google



LONDON

Published by Ackermann 44 Pilgrimstreet Row

Sept 1st 1817

Digitized by Google

memorable battle ensued* which put a period to the career of Lord Nelson. The British had twenty-seven, the French

* One captain, whose life was forfeited in the battle of Trafalgar, has been already noticed, and another is here to be mentioned, who, like his comrade, has a monument in St. Paul's Cathedral, which is fixed to the panel above the national memorial to the Marquis Cornwallis. By consequence, the monuments of Captains Duff and Cooke face each other. The latter is an alto-relievo by Westmacott, R. A., representing a pitiful figure of Britannia attended by one child, bearing a trident, and another holding a helmet. It is thus inscribed:—

Erected at the Public Expense
To the Memory of
Captain JOHN COOKE, who was killed
Commanding the Bellerophon in
The Battle of Trafalgar,
In the forty-fourth year of his Age,
And the thirtieth of his Service.

John, the second son of Francis Cooke, Esq. a cashier in the navy, became a sailor on board the Greyhound cutter, at the early age of eleven years. After one short voyage, however, he was sent to Braken's naval academy at Greenwich, and there gained a friend for his future life in Hood, Lord Bridport. At the age of thirteen he accompanied Lord Howe to America, in the Eagle, and elicited the approbation of that kind commander for his conduct at the siege of Rhode Island. He passed his examination for a lieutenancy, soon after the return of the Eagle to England, and was next appointed to the Worcester, in which he sailed to the East Indies under Sir Edward Hughes. The services which he was called on to render at the sieges of Trincomalee and Seringapatam, threw him into so precarious a state of health, that he was obliged to return to England, and by this step forfeit his turn of promotion. Three years afterwards he was recalled from France, where he had fixed his residence, for the benefit of a mild climate, and joined the fleet stationed in the West Indies, under Admiral, now Lord Gambier. But an accident again deprived him of the advantages contingent upon meritorious employment, for by a severe fall on board the Europa, he was confined for some time to his hammock, and at last sent home invalided by the surgeons, after the absence of three years. A twelvemonth, however, recruited his constitution; and he then married Miss Hardy, the daughter of the British consul at Cadiz, and soon after joined Lord Bridport, in the London. The first ship which he commanded, was the Incendiary fire-sloop, from which he was shifted by Lord Bridport into the Monarch, and made a post captain, without ever sailing as a com-

Digitized by Google

eighteen, and Spaniards fifteen ships. In order to save the delay of forming a regular line, Nelson ordered his fleet to bear up in two columns, of which he led the weather side in person, and appointed Admiral Collingwood, in the Royal Sovereign, to head the lee. The combined armament drew themselves closely up into the figure of a crescent, and awaited the attack with marked composure. The action became general at twelve o'clock, when almost every ship throughout the lines was engaged muzzle to muzzle. The enemy displayed an honourable vigour, and the conflict raged for some time with equal severity; but the fury of the assault was irresistible. By three o'clock their colours began to strike in numbers, the order of their array was completely broken, and several detached squadrons tried to tack and stand aloof to the wind. In the result, one ship of 64 guns blew up, and nineteen sail were left in our possession, amongst which were three first rate ships, with the following flag officers on board:—Admiral Villeneuve, commander-in-chief; Don Ignatio Maria D'Aliva, vice-admiral; and Rear-admiral Don Baltazor Hidalgo Cisneros.

The fate of Nelson is now to be recorded. About the middle of the battle the Victory fell aboard the Redoubtable, and a slaugh-

mander. Nothing worth recording seems to have occurred to him until the mutiny at Plymouth, where he arrived just before its troubles began, with two French frigates, captured by him in the La Nymphe frigate, accompanied by Sir H. B. Neale, in the San Fiorenzo. By the insurgent crews he was particularly marked out for accusation, and subjected to treatment highly offensive to the feelings of an officer. No violence, however, was offered to him; he was sent on shore, invited back, and again sent on shore with disgust. Previous to his appointment under Lord Nelson, in 1805, he held several commands, but they were all unimportant. In the battle of Trafalgar the sufferings of his ship were great, and his conduct the most exemplary. Mistaken for a flag ship, she was surrounded by three of the enemy, and subjected to tremendous injuries. The men fell so fast, that he repeatedly ordered them below decks; and when an attempt was made to board, he repulsed several of the enemy with his own hand, and ran an officer through, who had the temerity to leap upon the ship. Being at last left with only a lieutenant on his deck, and advised to remove his epaulettes, he exclaimed—"No! I see my situation, but will die like a man." A few moments passed, and two balls pierced his breast. He fell, desired to be left still a moment, enjoined the lieutenant never to strike, and then quietly expired.

Digitized by Google

tering struggle took place. But the superiority of the English ship was evident; the crew of her adversary were swept away from their decks; she was at the last extremity of resistance, when a musket-ball from her mizen-top struck Nelson in the left breast. He fell on the instant, and was quickly removed down to the cockpit. When the surgeon approached, he complained of acute pain in the back, and frequently declared that the bone was shot through. His extremities soon became cold; he lost all sense of bodily motion, and confessed that death was fast approaching. In the course of an hour his pulse grew indistinct; by degrees they receded from the arm, and then his forehead became cold. To the last moment his faculties were undepressed, and the energy of his mind remained conspicuous. To every cheer given by his crew he listened with lively interest, and earnestly enquired after the state of the battle, and the number of captures. When told that only twelve ships could be counted with their colours down, he expressed surprise, and affirmed, that by his own calculation, at least twenty ought to be seized—a conjecture which was ultimately realised. Far from expressing any concern at his fall, he declared the day to be the happiest of his life, and rejoiced greatly when assured that his anticipations of a decisive victory were fulfilled. As his feelings grew more torpid, he said he could have wished to have survived a little longer, and seen the fleet safe; but as that was impossible, he gave God thanks that he had outlived the victory, and done his duty to Great Britain. In this manner he lingered on for about two hours, and expired without a struggle at five o'clock.

Of no man was the loss ever more deeply deplored by a country, or the memory more enthusiastically honoured, than of Lord Nelson. There was no way in which grief could be declared, that was not pursued upon this melancholy occasion; and there was no circumstance of pomp, and no cost of money, by which his remains could be distinguished, that was not enthusiastically lavished upon his obsequies. From Gibraltar, whither it was conveyed on the 5th of November, his body was shipped to Greenwich, and there lay in state during the course of December. On the 8th of January, it was brought up the river to Whitehall, with the most formal splendour, and again solemnly

Digitized by Google

exposed in the Admiralty. His public funeral, defrayed by the nation, magnificent beyond all former examples, and attended by the princes of the blood, the various public authorities of the Metropolis, the flower of the nobility, and the pride of the gentry, was celebrated on the morning of the ninth. The coffin was finally deposited under the dome of St. Paul's, where a fine sarcophagus of black marble, which was designed by Cardinal Wolsey for his own interment in St. George's chapel, Windsor, has since been erected to honour the spot.

There is scarcely a term in the language of panegyric that has not been applied to Lord Nelson; and it now seems to be the fixed sense of the nation, that no eminent commander can be instanced, in ancient or modern times, who surpassed the great talents and good qualities possessed by the victor of the Nile, Copenhagen, and Trafalgar. To undaunted courage he united an insatiable passion for enterprise and glory, and with a most zealous love of his country, evinced a very pleasing spirit of religious devotion. The modesty of his feelings, the brightness of his actions, his piety to Heaven, and his humanity to man, supplied the priest, the poet, and the statesman, with a capital theme for the exercise of their different talents; and by each of them were his virtues inculcated or his fame rehearsed with the happiest effect. He has been pronounced the friend and father of all who were fortunate enough to serve under his command; he succeeded to a line of heroes, matchless for every trait of merit and feature of glory; he left them unrivalled in no respect whatever, and therefore his life must always remain the boast and admiration of every countryman who shall rejoice to see the navy of Great Britain invincible upon the surface of the seas.

Digitized by Google

SIR ISAAC NEWTON.

THE principal entrance into the choir of Westminster Abbey is decorated with two stately monuments, of which, the one to the left hand commemorates the illustrious Newton. Upon an elevated sarcophagus is placed a recumbent statue, with the right arm supported by four thick volumes, which are inscribed DIVINITY, CHRONOLOGY, OPTICS, PHIL: PRIN: MATH:; and with the left arm pointing to a scroll, which is upheld at his feet by winged cherubs. The back ground is occupied by a lofty pyramid, near the apex of which projects a large globe, traced with the course of a comet, which appeared in 1680. Upon this globe is a figure of Astronomy; and along the front of the sarcophagus below, appears a basso-relievo, emblematical of the various discoveries for which Newton has become celebrated. Among these, a representation of the sun weighed in a steelyard, has been commended for ingenuity by the admirers of a curious idea. A Latin epitaph is cut upon the pedestal, which may be thus translated:

* Here is Buried
ISAAC NEWTON, Knight,
Who, by a strength of mind almost divine,
And Mathematical principles peculiarly his own,
Explored—the Course and Figures of the Planets,

* H. S. E.
ISAACUS NEWTON, Eques Auratus,
Qui animi vi prope divinâ
Planetarum Motus, Figuras,
Cometarum Semitas, Oceanique Æstus,

Digitized by Google

The Paths of Comets, the tides of the Sea,
The dissimilarities in Rays of light,
And, what no other scholar had previously imagined,
The properties of the colours thus produced.
Diligent, sagacious, and faithful,
In his expositions of Nature, Antiquity, and the Holy Scriptures,
He vindicated by his Philosophy the Majesty of a God
mighty and good,
And expressed the simplicity of the Evangelist in his manners.

Mortals rejoice
That there has existed such and so great
AN ORNAMENT OF THE HUMAN RACE!
He was born on the 25th of December, 1642, and died on the
20th of November, 1726.

The manor of Woolsthorpe, in the parish of Colsterworth, Lincolnshire, was the birth-place of Newton. He was an only child: his mother had been left a widow about three months before he was born, and subsequently entèred into a second marriage; but seems under all circumstances to have discharged her duty to him with exemplary care. Being sent to the grammar-school of Grantham, the pregnancy of his mind and particular bent of his genius soon became conspicuous. He furnished himself

Suâ Mathesi faciem præferente,
Radiorum lucis dissimilitudines,
Colorumque inde nascentium proprietates
Quas nemo antea vel suspicatus erat, pervestigavit.
Naturæ, Antiquitatis, S. Scripturæ
Sedulus, sagax, fidus, Interpres
Dei O. M. Majestatem Philosophiâ asseruit,
Evangelii simplicitatem moribus expressit.

Sibi gratulentur Mortales
Tale tantumque exstitisse
HUMANI GENERIS DECUS!
Nat. XXV. Dec. A.D. MDCXLII. Obiit XX Nov. A.D.MDCCXXVI.

Digitized by Google

with a set of carpenter's tools, and was continually occupied in making little knick-knacks, which were much prized by his companions for neatness and ingenuity. He was fond of drawing, and used to amuse himself by taking portraits of the scholars: but the most curious anecdote of his boyhood is one which describes him in the act of rudely determining the force of the wind, by comparing how much farther he could leap with it than against it.

After passing through the course of study taught at Grantham, his mother took him home, and proposed that, as his father had done, and the ancestors of his family before him for nearly three centuries, so he too should live upon his estate, which was then valued at about 120*l.* a-year, and cultivate it himself. To this plan he acceded, but, in all probability, with very little ardour; for we are told, that having occasion to go to a neighbouring market soon after he became a farmer, he left his business undone, and for awhile could no where be found. At last some one happened to go into a hayloft, and there young Newton was discovered, abstracted in a mathematical problem, which he was working on the wall. This accident determined his friends that he was fit for something higher than sowing and reaping, and accordingly, at the suggestion of a maternal uncle, who was a clergyman in the vicinity, he was sent to Trinity College, Cambridge, in his eighteenth year.

Newton was now in his proper sphere, and the rapidity with which he developed the extraordinary powers of his mind, far exceeded the most sanguine expectations of his friends. From Euclid, whom he comprehended with ease, but did not minutely analyze, he was impelled by the fashion of the day to investigate the pages of Des Cartes, and then studied Kepler's Optics, and Dr. Wallis's Arithmetica Infinitorum. Upon this latter work it has been conjectured that he already began to found the 'New Method of Infinite Series and Fluxions,' which originally appeared in Latin, but subsequently became better known by the translation of Mr. Colson, published in 1736. Taking up his degree of B. A. in 1664, he turned his thoughts to the improvement of telescopes. From the experiments which he was henceforward induced to make for this purpose, resulted his 'New Theory of Light and Colours,' in which he proved that light

Digitized by Google

was not, as Des Cartes supposed, homogeneous, but heterogeneous, being created by a union of rays differently refrangible.

He was still immersed in this subject, and the telescope, when the plague broke out, and compelled him to take refuge in the country, where he spent two years removed from all congenial associations, and severely devoted to his books. But it was comparatively of little moment where Newton happened to be placed, for his mind was always on the alert for discoveries. In this rustic retreat, an event, simple and fortuitous as it is possible to conceive, prompted him into a speculation upon which he founded the great law of gravitation, and established his theory of the universe. Sitting one day by himself in a garden, he saw an apple fall from a tree, and by this trivial circumstance was led to suppose, that as the power with which this and all bodies fall is uniform, and not sensibly diminished at the farthest distance from the centre of the earth to which we can rise, so it must be reasonable to conclude that the principle governed all matter. As an apple falls from a tree, thought the philosopher, so might it fall from the moon. Pursuing this line of observation, and comparing the periods of the various planets with their distances from the sun, he ascertained that if any power like gravity retained them in their courses, the strength of that power must decrease in a duplicate proportion to the distance of its action. Such, in the issue, was the foundation of his celebrated theory; but at the beginning he was not satisfied with his experiments, and for an interval laid aside the idea.

Returning to Cambridge, in 1667, he proceeded M. A. and soon after had his attention somewhat diverted from all his late enquiries by the friendly care of Dr. Barrow, who, in resigning the University Professorship of Mathematics during the year 1669, appointed Newton to be his successor. And here it may not prove uninteresting to observe that the intimacy between these two distinguished men commenced, as if by a sympathy of genius, almost at the first moment of Newton's entrance at Cambridge, and continued close and propitious as long as they were permitted to enjoy a common sphere of existence. After a little hesitation, Newton made his discoveries in Optics the subject of a course of lectures, during which he brought his doctrine of light and colours to a state so perfectly satisfactory, that he communicated

Digitized by Google

it to the Royal Society, of which body he had for some time been a member. It was accordingly inserted in the volume of their Transactions which appeared in the month of February, 1672, but gave rise to a controversy so violent and so painful to the inventor, that he suppressed the publication of his lectures, which were at that very time in the press; abandoned the completion of his Infinite Series; and drew back his ambition to the construction of an improved telescope. There remains, however, a distinct publication to be mentioned, which he gave the world during the course of the same year. It was entitled 'Bernardi Varenii, Geographia Generalis, in qua affectiones generales Telluris explicantur, aucta et illustrata ab I. Newton—The General Geography of Bernard Varenius, in which the general affections of the Earth are explained, augmented, and illustrated by I. Newton.'

By this time Newton was engaged in an extensive correspondence with the best philosophical scholars of the age, both at home and abroad, amongst whom Leibnitz, perhaps, held the first rank. To him he was induced to communicate his invention of the Infinite Series, a civility which was most ungratefully returned. After making several observations respecting a Comet which appeared in 1680, he occupied himself in drawing up several propositions respecting the motion and orbit of the moon: these were afterwards embodied in the Philosophical Transactions for 1683. He now devoted himself exclusively to the composition of his Principles, which were sent from the press in 1687, under the title of 'Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica —The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy.' This was indeed a work mighty and profound, but one, at first, neither well received nor understood. It was an abstruse labour, requiring the deepest study from the most scientific, and even now that it has been ably explained and in a manner amply paraphrased, is far from intelligible to ordinary understandings. The argumentation is by no means perspicuous and consecutive, the scholar is aided by nothing like that simple order which so much delights in Euclid; the Principia are not arranged according to the logical preciseness of definition, theorem, and corollary, but are to be comprehended and mastered by study, deep and long, patient comparison, and original application. To possess himself fully of the genius of Newton is an enterprise for which a man must bring

Digitized by Google

with him no mean talent of his own. Of the opinions which were provoked by such a mass of profound thought and immense penetration, one anecdote may supply an idea:—the Marquis de l'Hopital, himself a clever mathematician, is said, in speaking of the work, to have asked an Englishman—'Does Monsieur Newton eat, drink, and sleep, like other mortals? To me he appears a celestial genius, entirely disengaged from matter.'

During the course of the same year, Newton availed himself of another source of popularity, by taking a forward part in the proceedings through which the University of Cambridge resisted the mandamus by which James the II. endeavoured to procure a degree of M. A. for the Benedictine Father Francis. He was soon after returned to the House of Commons for the University, and retained his seat until the Convention Parliament was dissolved. In 1696 he was patronised by Montague, afterwards Earl of Halifax, who procured for him the appointment of Warden in the Mint, of which establishment he rose to be Master in the course of three years. Upon first undertaking this new avocation he resigned his Professorship of Mathematics, in favour of the eccentric Whiston, and established himself in a house in Leicester-street, Leicester Fields, where the emoluments of his office, which amounted to 1200*l.* a year, enabled him to live with ease and dignity. In 1702 he was elected President of the Royal Society, and during the course of the following year published his 'Optics, a Treatise of the Reflexions, Refractions, Inflexions, and Colours of Light.' This was his favourite work; he had allotted the occasional labours of no less than thirty years to verify the experiments upon which it was founded, and it was fully entitled to all the honours of his partiality: for in this science it has been justly remarked that he stands solitary and pre-eminent. In his 'Fluxions,' which formed a compendium to the Treatise on Optics, and also in the principle of gravity by which he resolved the solar system, hints were borrowed, and facts adopted from others; but in dissecting the particles which compose a ray of light; in showing that they admitted of no farther distinction, and in discovering the peculiar refrangibility into which the particles thus separated diverged; he revealed all the mysteries in the science of light, and completed all the knowledge to be attained of its beauties. It is here observable that

Digitized by Google

Leibnitz, presuming on the modesty of Newton's disposition, and his known aversion to literary disputes, had the boldness to put in a claim for the merit of being the original inventor of the 'Fluxions' just mentioned: but the usurpation was speedily resented, and now constitutes a most disgusting proof of ingratitude and illiberality. In deciding these rival pretensions, Fontenelle paid an elegant compliment to our countryman, 'If,' said he, 'Newton was the first to make the discovery, and Leibnitz the first to publish it, the German only resembled Prometheus, who stole fire from heaven to communicate it to mortals.'

The profound labours by which Newton earned his fame have here been faintly recapitulated, and the honours with which it was crowned are now to be noticed. Queen Anne distinguished him by particular notice, and gave him his knighthood in 1705. During the following reign favours more gracious awaited him; for Caroline, Princess of Wales, having a taste for philosophical pursuits, frequently courted his society, and used to make a boast of being born in the same age with him. It was to this princess that he communicated the manuscript of a chronological work, which he had composed for his private satisfaction, but did not intend to publish. Her Royal Highness, however, thinking highly of the performance, and being anxious to extend his reputation, permitted a copy to be taken, which was soon after surreptitiously printed in Paris, with the name of another author. The man who perpetrated this daring piracy was the Abbe Conti, and he had the confidence to justify his conduct, by pretending that some alterations which he introduced materially improved the volume. A literary dispute was excited by the circumstance, which raged with some passion, and though it greatly mortified Newton, established his right to the work.

From the time of his appointment in the Mint, Newton devoted himself so assiduously to the duties of his office, that philosophy became almost a secondary object with him. Fortunately, however, for the world, he seems to have fully developed every discovery that occurred to his penetrating imagination. His manner of living was regular, temperate, and frugal to a nicety; he enjoyed a capital state of health up to the period of his eightieth year, but at that date a urinal suppression began to

Digitized by Google

affect him, which was soon found to be incurable. This disorder occasioned the most poignant sufferings, and ultimately put an end to his days, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. His obsequies were solemnised with considerable pomp; the body lay in state at the Jerusalem Chamber, and was escorted into Westminster Abbey by a long train of exalted admirers, amongst whom two dukes and three earls supported the pall. His stature was moderate, thin in youth, but rather corpulent in old age. The expression of his countenance was pleasing and venerable, but indicative in no marked degree of that profound sagacity which enhanced his works. Old as he lived to be, he never was obliged to wear spectacles, and, as is said, only lost one tooth.

His private character was eminently philosophical: patience, modesty, and indefatigability distinguished his thoughts, his writings, and his actions, with peculiar charms and the happiest success. In the decline of his life he was subjected to fits of pain so intense, that large drops of perspiration would run down his face while they lasted. Yet he never complained, never stopped the study, or broke up the company with which he might happen to be engaged at the moment, but as soon as the paroxysm ceased, talked or read on with alacrity. He had a favourite dog, which he used to call Diamond, and one evening as the animal was wantoning about his study, it knocked down a candle, and set fire to a heap of manuscript calculations, upon which he had been employed for years. The loss was irretrievable, but the resigned philosopher only exclaimed with simplicity, 'Ah, Diamond, Diamond, you little know what mischief you've been doing.' Of his mental abstraction, and indifference to the common course of things, anecdotes the most amusing are recited. He would sometimes rise at his usual hour, but sit thinking for half the day, on the side of his bed, with his clothes half on. Superior in a manner to the wants of nature, he has been known, when occupied with an idea, to go for a day without food, and at other times, when he did obey the summons to a meal, he would sit down to the table, but forgetting what he came for, leave the dishes untouched before him for hours together.

The ample task of expatiating upon the high order of his discoveries, and reviewing his publications, is superseded by the

Digitized by Google

vulgar fact, that his systems are universally received throughout the civilised world, and his observations are the theses upon which other professors expatiate. Editions and translations of his works have been made and published in all the modern tongues, and various countries of Europe and America; but the best that has appeared in England, was given by Bishop Howly, in 5 volumes, royal 4to. during the year 1781.

HOWARD, EARL OF NOTTINGHAM, K.B.

THE reign of Elizabeth, Queen of England, though darkened by the fury of religious persecution, and in general scandalously sullied by a heartless system of policy, which was pursued through constant crime, and completed in frequent bloodshed, presents, nevertheless, many passages replete with brilliant deeds, and national improvement. First on the list of eminent claims which the character of her administration possesses to the gratitude of posterity, are the measures which she successfully adopted for the advancement of our naval strength. It was reserved for her honour to carry the fame of the British fleet far beyond the reputation which the most popular of her predecessors had been able to attain for it, and the many glorious exploits which confirmed the wisdom of those designs shed an atoning lustre over the story of less enlightened views, and less generous deeds. To her reign we stand indebted for that great contingent source of maritimal strength; the establishment of the East India Company; she appropriated particular forests for ship-building, and was the first to found the manufacture of gunpowder in England; she built a naval fortress on the Medway, encreased the number, and raised the pay of her seamen; she encouraged the intrepid For-

Digitized by Google

bisher to make three attempts at a North-west Passage to China; patronised the fearless Drake in his voyage round the world; and finally, in reward for those talents which led to his ever memorable destruction of the Spanish Armada, created the noble subject of this sketch Earl of Nottingham.

Born in the year 1536, the Honourable Charles Howard entered the naval service of his country at a very early age, and obtained the most advantageous appointments for the developement of his talents under the immediate eye of his father, Baron Effingham, who filled the post of Lord High Admiral upon the accession of Queen Elizabeth to the throne. At this period, though only two and twenty years of age, young Howard was particularly distinguished by the notice of his royal mistress, who entrusted him with an embassy to France, to congratulate Charles the IX. upon his assumption of the crown. This mission satisfactorily discharged, he for awhile quitted the naval service, as the events of the period afforded no opportunity for employment, and entered the army. In this new profession he was nominated to the command of a regiment of cavalry; and after a promiscuous service of nine years, was proclaimed a general of horse, when the Earl of Warwick opposed the insurrection headed by the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland, in the north. The rapid and favourable termination of that revolt, though not particularly described, is yet so pointedly recorded in history as to be generally known. Immediately afterwards Howard was replaced on his natural element, and led the squadron of ships of war, which Elizabeth ordered out to sea as a convoy to Anne, daughter of Maximilian, Emperor of Austria, during her voyage to Spain. In 1571 we find him returned for the county of Surrey to the House of Commons, and ere long, by the death of his father, invested with the family title, and a seat in the Upper House. At the same moment he had also the satisfaction of receiving the high office of Lord Privy Seal, which was possessed by his father at the moment of his demise. That the son succeeded in gaining the same confidence from his royal mistress, by which the parent had always been distinguished, may be safely inferred from his progressive rise to some of the greatest honours to which a subject can aspire. He was first made Chamberlain of the Royal Household, next elected a Knight of the Garter, and,

Digitized by Google

at last, upon the death of the Earl of Lincoln, advanced, in 1585, to the dignity of Lord High Admiral.

The period of this appointment was big with the most important consequences. Philip the II., of Spain, was well known to have flattered himself with strong pretensions to the crown of England, by virtue of his marriage with the late Queen Mary, and the most critical apprehensions of a powerful attack to try the issue of this claim, were reasonably entertained, both by the government and the people. It was not, however, until the year 1588, that the measures of preparation for so formidable an undertaking were thought to be complete, and the destination of the extraordinary force, which had long been in a course of muster, was publicly avowed. An accurate account of the Spanish fleet was then published in Latin, and circulated throughout Europe, in which *The Most Happy Armada*, as it was fancifully styled, was boasted to consist of 130 vessels, floating 58,868 tons, mounting 2630 pieces of cannon, and manned with 19,295 soldiers, 8450 marines, and 2085 galley slaves. These ships of war were also accompanied by a large fleet of transports, carrying a plentiful store of ammunition, and farther provided with a prodigious quantity of arms, which were destined to supply the great body of volunteers that was expected to flock around the Spanish banner upon its first descent to our shores. The officer originally entrusted with the command of this great armament was the Marquis of Santa Cruz, a nobleman who had distinguished his name by a long course of valorous experience. Death, however, snatched him from the post of defeat, and his place was nominally supplied by the Duke of Medina Sidonia, while the Admiral second in command, Don Martinez de Ricalde, was really the person to whose advice the direction of every movement was confided. A large body of nobility crowded around these officers, under the character of volunteers, and some of the highest dignitaries of the church were allotted as chaplains to the forces. In the month of May, the captains were all assembled at Lisbon, and the fleet was forthwith reported to be in a fit condition for sea.

This momentous act, however, was deferred until the first of June, on which day, with a consecrated banner, blessed by the Pope, and pronounced *Invincible*, the sails of the Spanish fleet were unfurled, and the voyage commenced, under every circum-

Digitized by Google

stance that could establish pomp and excite enthusiasm. Being thus launched to subdue England, and convert its inhabitants, the commanders were instructed to proceed to the Roads of Calais, and there form a junction with the reinforcement promised by the Duke of Parma. This point effected, the orders contained in a sealed packet were to be obeyed. To these charges was added a general recommendation to act on the defensive, and to forbear any first attack.

Of the force which was collected by Elizabeth to repel this powerful invasion, the accounts are various and contradictory. That her ships were more numerous than those of the enemy appears certain, though their size and strength were inferior, their equipment much weaker, and their power still farther reduced by the different squadrons into which they were divided, for the purpose of guarding every vulnerable quarter upon which the descent might be first made. Howard, as Lord High Admiral, assumed the chief command, Sir John Hawkins was his Rear-admiral, and all the vessels available for actual engagement are estimated at 175 sail, the number of tons being 29,794, and of men 14,501. Of these Sir Francis Drake, as Vice-admiral, led a distinct squadron of 32 vessels, and 2,358 men; while Lord Henry Seymour, supported by a Dutch fleet, under the Count Nassau, drew off 23 sail, and 1700 men, in order to coast along the shores of Flanders, and embarrass the projected approach of the Duke of Parma. Of the remaining force mustered by the English, beside volunteer ships from private individuals amounting to 18, there were also 10 fine merchantmen tendered to the Lord High Admiral, and a fleet of 58 vessels fitted out for him by the City of London. With these various means of opposition, Howard put to sea, and, in compliance with the directions given for the occasion, cruised along our western coast in order to receive the enemy at their first approach. The season advanced, but there was no appearance of an enemy; and the English cabinet began to conjecture from the delay, that no decided attempts at an invasion would be made during the year. In consequence of this supposition, Walsingham, the Secretary of State, issued orders to the High Admiral, to send his heavier vessels into harbour and pay off the men, in order to save the state expense. Fortunately, however, for the country, the discrimination of Lord Effingham was more correct. He wrote back to the Secretary to

Digitized by Google

excuse himself from complying with the orders issued, and begged if expense was the only object in view, and his reasons for refusing to pay off the ships should be deemed insufficient, they might all be considered as retained in the service at his personal charge. The propriety and importance of this conduct was soon evinced, for on the night of the 19th of June, a Scotch pirate, named Captain Fleming, brought intelligence that the Spanish fleet had entered the channel. The first land they approached was the Lizard Point, which they confounded with the Ram's Head, near Plymouth, and in consequence stood off again to sea until the following morning, when the hostile flags again appeared in sight.

Adverse winds had already scattered and reduced the Spanish fleet, and so widely asunder were the English ships extended in squadrons of observation, that the utmost exertions could only collect a sail of 50 vessels to meet the Spaniards, who came nobly steering up the Channel in the shape of a half-moon, with their wings spread out to an extent of seven miles. Howard suffered them to pass him without molestation, and they were vain enough to accept of the advantage; but as soon as he found himself in the rear, and had acquired the aid he desired from the wind, he immediately pursued and attacked them. This movement was projected with great skill, and performed with appropriate courage. The battle, which took place off the Eddystone, in consequence of the inadequateness of his force, was irregular and indecisive; but one great object was attained in the damage done to almost every vessel he contended with, and the promise of still greater benefits was held forth by the confusion which was perceptible before the night concluded the firing. Meanwhile a Spanish galleon, with an admiral's flag, sprung her foremast in consequence of the injuries she received during the day, and floated disabled on the squadron commanded by Sir Francis Drake, who now came up to support the High Admiral. She proved laden with specie, which was intended to pay the Spanish sailors, and supply their fleet; but which was immediately distributed as a prize to encourage the English crew, while the capture itself was sent into Dartmouth, as an earnest of nobler advantages.

The next engagement ensued on the 23d, and the prospective

Digitized by Google

triumph of the English became still more apparent. The larger vessels of the enemy, which formed so prominent a source of pride, now proved singularly inefficient, for, in consequence of their bulky elevation above the water, every shot from them flew over the heads of the English; while not a bullet from the latter passed without effect; and the execution committed, in consequence of the crowded equipments of the Spanish men-of-war, was terribly conspicuous.

The 24th was a day of rest, in consequence of the want of ammunition among the English, and it is singular to observe how palpably the forbearance of the enemy established the greatness of their fears, and ultimately tended to their final discomfiture. Had they reversed the order of their movements, the consequence had, in all probability, been signally different also; but while vainly awaiting for a junction with the Duke of Parma, who never approached them, they neglected a series of favourable opportunities, which, judiciously availed, must have produced results the most disastrous to the safety of the British nation. To expose such errors is now uninteresting, and it is only left to state the succession of assaults by which the destination of this mighty Armada was utterly defeated. On the 25th, the English Admiral was fully supplied with ammunition, and also reinforced by the arrival of all the squadrons destined to support his measures. His strength was now swelled to the number of 140 sail, and he made the final arrangements for a signal attack. For this purpose he parted his fleet into four divisions, of the first of which he retained the command in person; while he entrusted the second to Sir Francis Drake, the third to Sir John Hawkins, and the fourth to Captain Forbisher. A calm, however, ensued, and obviated the fulfilment of the plan, when it was thought prudent to suspend any farther operations until the enemy should enter the Straits of Dover, where Lord Henry Seymour was stationed to repel the Duke of Parma, and oppose their progress.

This event did not occur until the 27th of July, when the Spaniards, who had been greatly harassed during the interval, anchored before Calais, but prudently arranged their large ships in protecting their lines, so that no attempt could be made to attack them without involving almost certain ruin to the ag-

Digitized by Google

gressors. In this dilemma, Howard had recourse to an expedient at that period most unusual in naval tactics. He converted eight of the worst vessels he had into fire-ships, and at midnight despatched them, loaded with combustibles, into the thickest of the enemy's fleet, where ere long the blaze of success rose apparent; and as the English Admiral foresaw, the compact order of the enemy was broken up, and every vessel obliged to seek safety for itself in separate flight. On the following morning, the English, as was their custom, gave close chase, and, without a general battle, were able to execute considerable damage. A large galleon foundered upon the sands of Calais, and was there pursued and burnt; while the Spaniards, still cherishing a hope, rendezvoused at Gravelines, and assumed the appearance of decisive efforts. Here they again cast anchor for some time, in hopes the Duke of Parma would heave in sight; but still disappointed of this long delayed succour, and hourly oppressed by the running fire and fight of the English, they at last broke from their moorings, and made one resolute attempt to repass the Straits of Dover. It has been honourably said, that the decision and skill with which this movement was made, would, in all probability have made it successful, had not the wind, fortunately for the English, veered suddenly and with violence round to the north-west, and driven the enemy directly upon the coast of Zealand. Here again, fortunately for the Spaniards, it turned to north-east, and they were enabled, by superior tacking, to avoid the certain wreck that seemed to await them upon the shores. This dilemma passed, a council of war was held by the Duke de Medina Sidonia, and, after some deliberation, it was admitted that hopes there were none for the issue of their hostile views. By a natural consequence it was next resolved, that the only course to be pursued with prudence, was to return home, with as many ships and men as they could possibly save from the adversity of wind, wave, weather, and England.

The determination was no sooner taken, than it was carried into execution; and the fleet made sail for Spain. But its dangers were still far from passed, and its difficulties far from overcome. Unwilling again to face the English squadron, it was determined to double the island, and by this means escape an encounter. Care, however, was taken to deprive them of every

Digitized by Google

supply either of food or water along the coast, so that, on reaching the shores of Scotland, they were obliged to throw their mules, horses, and heavy arms, overboard; and, for the easier means of escape, separate into two divisions. Twenty-five vessels, under the Duke de Medina Sidonia, bore away directly for the Bay of Biscay, and forty more, under the Vice-Admiral, were obliged to take their chance of watering by steering round Ireland. Even this hope was singularly baffled; for on the 2d of September a storm of unusual violence arose, which the English weathered with comparative success, but the Spaniards were utterly unable to contend with. Scattered asunder in every direction, some ships foundered on the coast, while others, driven backwards into the Channel, fell an easy prey into the hands of their unwearied pursuers. On the rocky shores of Ireland alone no less than thirty sail were lost, while many others were destroyed amidst the Western Isles of Scotland, and the confines of Argyleshire. Thus terminated the mighty project of reducing England to a foreign yoke; and thus short was the space of time necessary to sweep away from the surface of the deep a fleet which it required three years to equip, and treasures uncounted to produce.

For his eminent services upon this occasion, the Lord High Admiral was created Earl of Nottingham, and rewarded with a pension. But even higher honours awaited him; for in 1599, when the state was menaced with revolt at home and invasion from abroad, Elizabeth created Howard Lord Lieutenant-general of all England, and entrusted him with the sole and supreme command of all her forces, both by sea and land. This unprecedented rank of authority he discharged with almost regal powers, until, fortunately for his country, the emergency of danger subsided, and his active talent ceased to be urgently required.

Upon the accession of James the I., Howard succeeded implicitly to the same degree of confidence that he had enjoyed during the administration of the deceased Queen. He was continued in his post of Lord High Admiral, and also officiated as Lord Chamberlain. Soon after an embassy being required to the country of his late enemies, Spain, he was selected for the mission, and performed it under singular circumstances of pomp

Digitized by Google

and respect; for in his train were numbered six peers and fifty knights.

Being now grown old and infirm, he made this the last public act he performed for his country; and then resigned his political rank and offices. After a retirement spent in quiet and honour, he died—celebrated for a bravery no dangers could daunt, and a perseverance no difficulties could overcome,—on the 14th of December, 1624. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, but there exists no record to commemorate the spot.

JOHN OPIE, R. A.

In painting, as in poetry, genius often starts almost at a first effort to the fullness of its powers: after that it will sometimes remain on a level with primitive exertion, and in other cases retrograde from it. The first point of this observation is strongly exemplified in the life of John Opie the painter, who was born in 1761, at the obscure village of St. Agnes, Cornwall, and lies buried in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral. His father was a carpenter, and he was himself not only apprenticed to that trade, but accustomed to work at it for some years. How far he may have derived from it some assistance for the early developement of his powers, is a question for the solution of the curious. Strong originality and hardy daring marked the character of his boyish years; so much so, that he had an evening school in his native place at the premature age of twelve, in which he taught reading, writing, and arithmetic to scholars, some of whom were twice as old as himself.

His first attempts at drawing were characterised by similar precocity: he began, by tracing with a burnt stick the heads of his family, in sooty outline, on the white-washed walls of his paternal cottage, and persevered in this course of disfiguration, not-

Digitized by Google

withstanding the angry words of his mother, and the heavy blows of his father. The next grade he advanced to, was prompted by the acquisition of a lump of ochre and a piece of cartridge paper, on which the broad coarse lineaments of the old and the ugly, regularly secured a preference.

Fortune soon favoured the child of Nature. Doctor Walcot, afterwards celebrated in the republic of letters for his comic poetry under the cognomen of Peter Pindar, was at this time a practising physician at Truro. In the house of an elderly lady, whom he visited at St. Agnes, it happened to be mentioned as a matter of village novelty, that a carpenter's lad in the neighbourhood was never tired of taking copies from a print of a farm-yard which hung over the chimney-piece. The Doctor, himself an amateur painter, immediately enquired the lad's address, and proceeded to see him. He found the boy at work with his father in a saw-pit, and upon asking him what he could paint, was answered with emphatical simplicity—"Oh! blazing stars—King, and Queen—and the Devil." As a specimen, he produced a sketch of his Satanic Majesty, equipped, in awful conformity to the fears of the vulgar, with a huge pair of doubly-curved horns, long asses ears, and immense goggle eyes. Laughably as the portrait was executed, it nevertheless ended in an invitation for the rustic artist to go and see the Doctor's paintings at Truro. There, supplied with paint and brushes, and guided by the instructions of Walcot, the earnest of Opie's talents soon became so decisive, that the ductile physician resolved to take the boy to live with him, and cultivate his budding genius.

Next to instructions in the art itself, Dr. Walcot taught Opie French, and afterwards imparted some imperfect knowledge of the classics. But the most difficult part of the preceptorship was to make his person keep some pace with the rapid refinement of his mind: many a lesson in politeness was given in vain, and many a fine maxim from Lord Chesterfield attentively heard, and but faintly heeded; for the clownish roughness of Opie's origin was never reduced to a polished exterior. More important improvements, however, were more readily attained; and after considerable hesitation upon the part of the Doctor, as to the branch of the art for which the talents of his pupil were best adapted, he determined to prefer that line for his more particular

Digitized by Google

study which promised the readiest returns to success. Thus was Opie urged to direct all his powers to portraits, which he first began to paint for half-a-crown. This fee, always under the Doctor's advice, he gradually raised to five shillings, then to three half-crowns, and at last to half-a-guinea. He then began to grow a man of consequence, and his patron had not long to remain before he counselled him to demand a guinea a portrait. Opie hesitated, but Peter Pindar was resolute; and a guinea was fixed upon, not without some melancholy protestations from the conscientious artist, that he would soon, according to his own words, *ruin the country*.

One lecture Doctor Walcot repeated to his pupil with earnest frequency: it was—to aim at nothing short of gaining the head of his profession; and to make it the highest fruit of his ambition, to relieve his sister from servitude, and preserve his father and mother in decent ease. The progress of these remarks will detail how well he realised the first part of this golden advice; and the reader may, perhaps, be as well pleased to learn here, as elsewhere, what it were almost sinful to suppress, that Opie's filial duty fulfilled all the conditions thus imposed upon his prospective fame.

After a removal to Exeter, where his reception was progressively favourable, the Doctor and his pupil arrived at London, the general point for talents of every description, in 1780. In this adventure they agreed to form a joint stock purse, into which both their earnings were to be deposited—a plan of life which they continued to observe for some time, until Opie's employments became so lucrative, that he was prompted to dissolve this community of things by letter. Doctor Walcot resented the resolution greatly; and though he was subsequently induced to renew the acquaintance, yet he never forgot an act, which it was clear he never heartily forgave. Why he should have ever considered a line of conduct so natural to constitute either an insult or an injury, it is difficult to represent; unless we are to reverse the saying of Rochfaucault, and believe that, as there is something not unpleasing in the misfortunes of our friends, so there is generally a dislike to them when they surpass us in fame and wealth.

Opie's popularity in London was principally effected through an interview, which he was fortunate enough to obtain with

Digitized by Google

George III. through the interest of the Hon. Mr. Boscawen, and the President West. After that distinction he took a house in Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, then removed to a more fashionable establishment in Berner's-street, Oxford-street, and soon had the satisfaction of seeing his door crowded with the carriages of the wealthy and the noble. But the ladies were far from constant to him, for his portraits were too faithful to please; principally because he entertained a rooted opinion that what generally passes for grace amongst the female sex is merely affectation. Nothing was too minute, nothing too particular for his pencil; he represented his subjects as he found them; every little wen, and every light mole, every wound, and every blemish of the original, were rigidly transplanted to his canvass; and all this was any thing but what the majority of those who are used to sit for their portraits desire to see commemorated. However the question of grace and delicacy, for wanting which Opie was mainly undervalued, may be properly determined; it cannot be doubted that his great strength lay in depicting the strong lines of manly character;—the decision of the warrior, the fierceness of the assassin, the hard corrusions of poverty, and the bare desolation of decrepitude, these were his delights, and in these he triumphed.

The walls of the Exhibition Room, in Somerset House, were hung with the works of Opie, for the first time, in 1786; after which he rose gradually to all the honours of the Royal Academy, in which he was chosen Professor of Painting, when Fuseli was appointed keeper. His lectures, although since collected together in print, neither pleased his audience nor himself. The principal obstacle he had to encounter, was a want of fluency in his periods, and impressiveness in his manner of delivery; faults which must ever keep the most cultivated far removed from success in lecturing. That a mind forcible in its perceptions, powerful in its views, and tenacious of its acquirements, as Opie's certainly was in a vigorous degree, must have been calculated to instruct and improve, cannot be denied: and that he in a manner failed in the application of this great capacity, must be attributed entirely to the mode of reducing it to advantage which was here required from him.

Opie was twice married: of his first wife little is known,

Digitized by Google

because she abused his honour, and was rejected from his bed by divorce. His second wife, the only child of Dr. Alderson, an eminent physician at Norwich, brought him more happiness, and greater distinction. She has since been well known in the literary world, by her tales and novels, of which the 'Father and Daughter,' 'Tales of the Heart,' and 'Essays on Lying,' &c. are oftenest read, and most commended. It has also been mentioned in her praise, that what the urgent remonstrances of Dr. Walcot could never effect, her gentle tuition instilled—namely, a decided sense of the advantages to be derived from attention to that grace in female portraits, which Opie has already been represented to have neglected even to a pitch of indignation. In this way a manifest improvement in the air of many of his latter paintings has been explained. For the acquisition of other qualities, Opie was not allowed to live: a cold, caught in the spring of 1807, baffled the aid of the first medical skill, and put a period to his career of wealth, on the 9th of April in the same year. He was interred, close by the remains of Sir Joshua Reynolds, in St. Paul's, under every circumstance of regret, which a display of public honour, and a demonstration of private regard, could bestow, on the 27th day of the month in which he expired.

Few artists have been more variously estimated than Opie: by some he has been exalted far above, and by others depressed greatly below, the common level of English painters. From so conflicting a judgment, the following is a moderate summary of the nature of his talents. In the conception of his subject, a strong originality of mind was always displayed; the arrangement of that subject was generally ideal: where nature was to be represented, she was painted with admirable truth and simplicity; but where a more inventive relief was required, his pencil was less masterly. Thus his canvass generally wore a character of uncultivated modesty; it was rather separately good, than harmoniously just; the parts were better than the whole picture. The works by which he acquired the greatest credit are first, 'The Death of David Rizzio,' which is thought his masterpiece; 'Jeptha's Vow,' and the 'Presentation in the Temple,' both painted for Macklin's Bible, and conspicuous for bold fancy, and effective colour; 'Juliet in the Garden,' a scene ele-

Digitized by Google

gantly conceived; 'Musidora,' 'The Escape of Gil Blas,' and an admirable portrait of a 'beggar.' The profits of these and other productions enabled him to leave behind him a competency of 8000*l*. In private life he was remarkable for much kind feeling, which those who only marked the bluntness of his manners upon public occasions could have little supposed him possessed of; he disliked the refinement of society, because he was unequal to its restraints, and despised the polish which he was unable to raise. Thus he rather had friends than patrons, men by whom the blemishes of the person were overlooked in the virtues of the heart; and he was valued for proving the reality of those possessions, for which the generality of mankind afford only the presumption of appearances.

BUTLER, DUKE OF ORMOND, K. G.

The reign of Charles the IId. though one which is generally considered politically criminal, and morally scandalous to an extreme, presents, nevertheless, several passages of great merit, and was upheld by many characters of the first order. The Court then was shameless in its vices; the majority of the statesmen were reckless in turpitude; neither the King nor his servants seem to have set the least value upon principles; a violated constitution, and a persecuting religion, cast an obnoxious shade over the era of their sway; and yet, when we come to take exceptions, to estimate the advantages which, if not acquired precisely at that period, still resulted so immediately from it, that they must be pronounced engendered by it, and thus in a manner belonging to it; when the good and the evil of the time are compared together, and the former is discovered progressively encreasing, while the latter gradually contracts, we almost forgive the cause for its consequences, and become reconciled to the odium of the

Digitized by Google

state at large, out of regard for the particular virtues which survived its degeneracy. The literature of the country was then highly cultivated; persons, the most exalted, felt its gentle influence, and sought a share of its laurels; the arts improved sensibly; there was a polished air, a chivalrous spirit, and a standard information afloat, such, perhaps, as were never before combined amongst us: and what renders all this still more charming is, that, in repeated instances, during this epoch, we see each of these superior qualities concurrently impressed to an eminent degree upon the same individual. The man who does honour to a dishonourable age is not to be eclipsed in fame. Many such men threw an atoning lustre around the reign of Charles the IId.: to describe, or even enumerate them here were irrelevant; but the subject of the following sketch, affords an example of the body. He passed through a series of ordeals the most critical, inflexible and untainted; constant alike in prosperity or in misfortune, in a high or in a low estate, he swerved not at all, whether out of fear or out of favour; and closed his career as he began it, in signal spotlessness.

James, the grandson of Sir Walter Butler, of Kilcash, in the county of Tipperary, in Ireland, was born in London, during the year 1610, at the house of his maternal grandfather, Sir James Pointz. Sir Walter was a younger branch of the House of Ormond, a noble family, which was about this period greatly distracted by law suits and animosities amongst its powerful members. From these unhappy circumstances, it ultimately resulted that the title became vested in Sir Walter, and the subject of this sketch, by losing his father, who was drowned in a voyage to England, assumed the style of Lord Thurles, in his ninth year. His education was both desultory and imperfect: as his kindred were exclusively Catholics, he was first put under the tuition of a schoolmaster of their persuasion, at Finchley. From this place, however, he was removed by the authority of James the I., who claimed him as a ward of the crown, and sent him to Archbishop Abbot, at Lambeth Palace. No great pains seem to have been had for his literary improvement by this prelate, whose main object it was to estrange his mind from the religion of his forefathers. And his pains were rewarded with success; for the young Lord was soon prevailed upon to profess

Digitized by Google

himself openly a Protestant, and he adhered to the reformed church during the rest of his days.

The death of King James restored him to his family, and he was immediately taken over into Ireland, by his grandfather. In what manner he now lived is not known, but it is probable that his time was spent to little profit. After the lapse of a few years he revisited London, and in 1629, contracted a marriage with his cousin, the Lady Elizabeth Preston, by which the long prevaling contentions of the family were composed, and all its interests united in his person. From the date of this event his career as a public character took its birth; for settling his residence in Ireland during the course of the same twelvemonth, he bought a troop of horse, and made his first advance into a profession which the vicissitudes of the age speedily destined him to ornament. During the next year the death of his grandfather left him the inheritance of a proud title and great estates, and he henceforward assumed that station among his countrymen which was the legitimate attribute of rank, property, and talents. In 1633, the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland was given to Lord Wentworth, afterwards Earl of Stafford, and among the first who were distinguished by his notice, was the young Earl of Ormond. He was almost immediately sworn into the privy council; and upon the levy of an Irish army to appease the troubles in Scotland, was appointed second in command, under the Lord Lieutenant. The foundations of an attachment were thus laid, which endured to the last with a fidelity the most honourable. Up to the moment of Stafford's arbitrary execution, Ormond stood firm in his cause; and it was one of the last desires which that unfortunate nobleman expressed to the King, that his Garter might be transferred to his friend.

The year 1641 is remarkable in the history of Ireland for the explosion of a violent insurrection among the aboriginal inhabitants of the island against the supremacy of England. In this predicament Ormond was created Lieutenant-general, and appointed Commander-in-chief of the army which did not then muster more than 3000 men. With a force so inadequate, nothing but defensive measures could be attempted, and for awhile he was unable to do more than check the advance of the insurgents. But he soon proceeded to more important services, and

Digitized by Google

after repulsing them from Naas, and compelling them to raise the siege of Dundalk, gave them a decided rout near the town of Kilrush. At this point, however, his operations were severely embarrassed by the Lords Justices, who administered the government of the kingdom under a commission. The succession of the Earl of Leicester to the Lord Lieutenancy tended in no degree to abate this difficulty; for, instead of the machinations of many, he had now to encounter the undivided opposition of one governor. He was, therefore, compelled to forward a remonstrance to the King in England, for the purpose of explaining the injurious situation in which he was placed. From Charles, who, when allowed to think for himself, generally determined with prudence, he obtained an independent commission without delay, and the title of Marquis in return of his late achievements. Hostilities were then renewed with greater steadiness, the insurgents continued the more numerous, but Ormond was the more successful; and at last his plans were crowned by a complete victory, in 1643. Upon this event a crisis supervened, which required the exercise of considerable judgment. The Irish government was so exhausted, that no supplies could be afforded to prosecute a blow so signal, and extinguish the war by another vigorous exertion; while in England, the King at open arms with his parliament, required all the reinforcements he could gather from every quarter. Ormond, therefore, concluded a favourable peace with the humbled insurgents; and, though the act was then loudly condemned in England, yet it has long been admitted to have been one of happy discretion under very complicated circumstances. To the King, at least, it gave certain satisfaction; for, in the next year, Charles appointed him to the supreme authority of Lord Lieutenant.

This was a period at which the cares of almost every man in the three kingdoms, whether public or private, were serious and important beyond a parallel; and, perhaps, the responsibility of the first governor in Ireland yielded to no other official functionary in difficulties. The long deplored wrongs of the natives were still vividly urged, the spirit of insubordination was as proud as ever, and a third party, introduced by the machinations of the English Parliament, had already secured a footing on the Island. Undismayed by this contrariety of things, Ormond addressed

Digitized by Google

himself to the interests of the country, with imposing earnestness; and made a signal effort towards diverting its energies to the aid of the royal cause. In granting the Catholics a formal indemnity for the late insurrection, he very properly secured them a toleration of their religion, in return for which, they undertook to arm 10,000 men in the service of Charles. But the obligations of this contract were speedily thwarted by the imprudence of some of the Catholics, who, instigated by Rinucini, the Pope's legate, and O'Neale, not only refused to ratify their engagements, but conspired to embarrass the Lord Lieutenant, and entirely overthrow the ascendency of England. Their measures were designed with energy, and enforced with precise resolution; and ere long they reduced Ormond to the alternative of delivering up the garrisons in his power, either into their hands, or those of the parliamentary forces. In this dilemma he followed the instructions of Prince Charles, and of the two enemies, preferred submission to the latter.

This misfortune was endured in 1648; after which, repairing to England, he obtained a melancholy interview with the King, already a prisoner at Hampton Court, and was warmly commended for his exertions. Deprived of any opportunity to render himself useful, he took up an obscure residence in London, until an order of banishment drove him in common with all the other royalists from the country. He next proceeded to France, where he was not long suffered to remain inactive; for receiving the strongest invitations to resume his lieutenancy, he appointed a meeting with the Earl of Inchiquin in Munster, and landed at Cork, after an absence of less than twelve months. His reception proivng highly flattering, he was enabled to adopt measures so energetic, that he soon restored the royal authority in those very towns which he had so lately ceded to the Parliament. He assembled an army of 16,000 men, advanced against Dundalk, which was garrisoned by General Monk, reduced the town, and followed on the advantage to Newry, with promptitude. So prosperous was his condition at this juncture, that the young King entertained a design of putting himself at the head of the Irish, but the happiness was of short duration. After a fresh defeat of the insurgents, under O'Neale, and the parliamentarians under Coote, he crossed the Liffey, and took up a position at Rath-

Digitized by Google

mines, near Dublin, resolved to put an end to the conflict by one bold enterprise.

The metropolis of Ireland was at this moment held by Jones, and by no means ably provided with a means of defence. Ormond began the siege with considerable vigour; he repaired old, and threw up new entrenchments; annoyed the enemy by constant skirmishes, and personally witnessed the fulfilment of every order. Some days were passed in these active preparations, when worn out with fatigue, he lay down for the first time, since the commencement of the siege, to enjoy a night's repose. Before taking this indulgence, he issued a command, requiring the men to remain under arms; but no sooner had he disappeared from among them, than the order was neglected, and the troops, following the example of their leader, betook themselves to sleep. Meantime, Jones, who had on that very day received succours from England, sallied from his posts, and attacked his enemy with desperation. Roused from his pallet by the discharge of musquetry, Ormond flew to the scene, and beheld his soldiers, surprised in disorder, and, after a resistance as brief as it was vain, was hurried with them into flight. A severe slaughter was made, and 2000 prisoners, with all the arms, baggage, and ammunition, fell into the hands of the victorious republicans.

This defeat was fatal, and the royal cause was enervated throughout the island. Cromwell reached Dublin immediately after, and by a series of movements, pursued with his characteristic fury, overran all opposition, from the one party, as well as the other. As a first blow he stormed Drogheda, and gave the inhabitants up to the horrors of military execution. Wherever he marched, the land flowed with blood, and every energy was paralised by cruelty. Nay, so utter was the panic, that not content with seeing Ormond deserted by every soldier, the few straggling authorities, who still favoured his interests, or ventured to express a counsel for his conduct, insisted upon his abandoning the country as the only means of saving the people from extermination. France, therefore, again became his land of refuge, and in 1650 he joined the little court of his exiled monarch. Extreme poverty must now have been entailed upon him, had not his Marchioness ventured back to Ireland, and, by great exertions, and after long delays, succeeded in saving a moiety of her

Digitized by Google

own estates from forfeiture. Thus, while his sons were sent to Holland, and his lady was obliged to remain in Ireland, Ormond continued abroad, and even there rendered many important services to the cause of fallen monarchy.

The first of the commissions entrusted to him in his banishment, was to withdraw the young Duke of Gloucester from the power of the Queen Mother, who was reported to have made use of some severities in order to induce that prince to become a convert to the Catholic faith. In this delicate task he succeeded, and was next employed to detach the Irish brigades in the service of Spain to the French crown. Having completed this object also, with promptitude, he was appointed to command these brigades, and in this capacity obtained the surrender of St. Ghilians, a fortified town near Brussels. In 1658 a more dangerous mission was confided to his prudence; for arriving secretly in England, with the view of acquiring certain intelligence of the strength of the royal party, he was put at the head of the conspiracy for Cromwell's deposition, which was mainly supported by Lord Fairfax, and Sir William Waller. How perfectly this plot was discovered to the Protector, is a matter of historical notoriety: Ormond was most hazardously persecuted by the government spies, and had good reason to congratulate himself upon the fortune of his escape to the continent. Ample notice might be now taken of the repeated negotiations which he conducted at the courts of France, Spain, and Holland, for the restoration of royalty; but as those undertakings were unsuccessful, so are their details uninteresting. The current of events brought that great end quietly to its issue by other labours than his; he was a passenger in the same ship that conveyed Charles back to his kingdom, and not only obtained an immediate restoration of his great property in the counties of Kilkenny and Tipperary, but was recompensed for his late sufferings, by an extensive grant of new estates.

The coronation was that solemnity by which Charles became formally invested with the rights and dignities of his ancestors, and he very appropriately made it the occasion of ratifying the distinctions of the faithful retinue who had shared his adversity. Amongst this number, Ormond was honoured with an Irish Dukedom, and nominated to officiate for the day with the rank

Digitized by Google

of Lord High Steward of England. In 1662, he was once more elevated to the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland, and upon his arrival at the seat of government, found that country, which seems incurably fated for distractions and sufferings, still agitated in open warfare. This state of things, with some time and labour, he managed to compose, and then directed his attention to improvements, for the benefits of which, if ever the memory of a man deserved to be invoked with blessings, his must rise sacred; for, after encouraging the people to various laudable occupations in commerce and agiculture, he introduced, for the first time, to their notice, the growth of flax, and manufacture of linen; and in order to secure a fair trial, and a proper cultivation of the art, procured at his own expense the most skilful men from the Low Countries, and dispersed them over the country, to communicate their knowledge, and set a profitable example of industry, throughout the whole island. The eminent results of this policy it is unnecessary to enlarge upon, as it is at this day a national truth, that the manufacture of linen is the standard trade of Ireland, and that the districts in which it is most cultivated, are the wealthiest and most peaceable in the country.

From these honourable avocations Ormond was only diverted by the vicissitudes inseparable from a political life. His intimacy with the Earl of Clarendon involved him in much of the unfounded odium which overpowered that great man; and when the Chancellor was banished, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland was called over to London to render an account of government. A rigorous inquiry into his conduct was immediately instituted, but not a pivot was detected on which envy could turn itself. The machinations of his opponents, however, were laid with an intricacy, from which it was impossible to escape; and in 1669, he was ungratefully deprived of all his offices. Honours, however, were not to be withheld from a man of such independent merits, by the factitious disgrace attending upon the loss of place; and in the course of the following year, he was elected Chancellor of the University of Oxford. Scarce had this last preferment been well attained, when a more malignant plot had nearly cut short his distinctions; for the same Colonel Blood, who is notorious in the history of England, for his daring effort to steal the crown from the Tower, made a desperate attempt on his Grace's life. This

Digitized by Google

villain had formerly been imprisoned by the Duke in Ireland, upon the detection of a reckless conspiracy, by which he intended to seize on the castle of Dublin; but escaping from gaol, before a trial could take place, he repaired to London, and moved about with impudent confidence, secure in the profligate patronage of the Duke of Buckingham. Hardened in crime, and thirsting for revenge, he now conceived the project of making away with the Duke of Ormond to Tyburn, and there hanging him from the common gallows. Accordingly, by taking his post with some mounted ruffians in St. James Square, one night in the month of December, 1670, he awaited the Duke's return home from a public entertainment, which had been given in the city, to the Prince of Orange. As soon as the carriage drew up before his residence, Ormond was seized, pinioned, and lashed behind a horseman, who immediately rode off with him at a rapid pace. The party had reached Oxford-street, when the Duke, after repeated struggles, succeeded in throwing both himself and the rider to the ground: assistance, fortunately, reached him before he could be replaced, and he gained his home uninjured. The King at first expressed a passionate resentment against the perpetrators of so violent an act, but being afterwards supplicated by Buckingham to favour Blood, he sent the Earl of Arlington to Ormond, with a request that the insult might be pardoned. Ormond's reply was courtier-like, and sensible;—"If the King," said he, "can forgive Blood for an attempt to steal his crown, I may easily forgive him for an attempt on my life: I shall observe his Majesty's pleasure, without enquiring into his reasons."

Seven years now passed away, and Ormond was never employed, and seldom consulted; though his high character and unimpeachable conduct retained him not unfrequently about the person of his indifferent sovereign. At length the grievances of the Irish broke out with such violence, that in 1677, the Court was compelled to resort to him as the only man in the nation who was at all likely to tranquillize the country. He was accordingly honoured with an unexpected visit from the King, and by him pressed to assume, for the fourth time, the high rank of Lord Lieutenant. Unmindful of personal feelings, when a public duty supervened, and conscious of the impolitical nature of the measures lately resorted to in Ireland, he undertook the responsibility, and

Digitized by Google

proceeded without hesitation to Dublin. By dint of great pains, and considerable prudence, he maintained the authority of his station in a higher degree than he last received it; but his designs were thwarted, his resources were inadequate, and the superiority of England was highly precarious.

At length Charles the II. died, and his brother James succeeded to the crown: Ormond proclaimed the new monarch at his seat of government, and then resigned his office. Being now stricken with years, and surfeited with politics, he retired to his seat at Kingston Hall, in Dorsetshire, and, after lingering under repeated attacks of the gout for two years, expired at the age of seventy-eight, in July, 1688. His body was removed with becoming solemnity to Westminster Abbey, and honourably interred beneath a vault under the entrance to Henry the Seventh's chapel, which is still distinguished by the title of *the Ormond* vault.

James Butler, Duke of Ormond, has deservedly received an admirable character from all historians. He was a man of grave, rather than shining talents; possessing sound opinions, and great practical knowledge. It has been truly observed, that for fine honour as a courtier, and pure integrity as a statesman, no one of his cotemporaries can be compared with him. The constancy with which he adhered to the cause of Charles, not only through all the oppressive hardships of banishment, but also through the bitter mortifications of party vicissitudes, and ministerial defeats, establishes an example of firm loyalty, such as it were not easy to match in history. He was an ardent friend to the prerogative of the crown; but, at the same time, a staunch advocate for the unbiassed administration of the law. The moderation of his conduct, and the excellence of his views in the government of Ireland, far exceeded any displayed by his predecessors. Had the judicious measures which he recommended for that unfortunate island been pursued, either during his lifetime, or after his death, it is almost indescribable what misery might have been avoided, and what prosperity secured.

Digitized by Google

PASCAL DE PAOLI.

In the great south aisle of Westminster Abbey is a handsome bust and tablet, executed by Flaxman, to the memory of this once popular general. The bust has been much praised for the resemblance it is said to bear to the deceased; and the inscription, which seems to have been penned by an English courtier, and is not rigidly true in all its statements, presents itself to the eye in the following order:—

D. O. M.
To the Memory of
PASQUALE DE PAOLI,
One of the most eminent and most illustrious characters
Of the age in which he lived.
He was born at Rostino, in Corsica, April the 5th, 1725,
was universally chosen, at the age of thirty, supreme head of that Island,
and died in this Metropolis, February the 5th, 1807,
aged 82 years.
The earlier and better part of his life he devoted to
The cause of Liberty;
Nobly maintaining it against the usurpation
of Genoese and French tyranny:
by his many and splendid achievements,
his useful and benevolent institutions,
his patriotic and public zeal manifested upon every occasion.
He, amongst the few who have merited so glorious a title,
most justly deserves to be hailed
The Father of his Country.

Digitized by Google

Being obliged by the superior force of his enemies
to retire from Corsica,
he sought refuge in this land of liberty,
and was here most graciously received
(amidst the general applause of a magnanimous nation)
into the protection of his Majesty, King George the Third,
by whose fostering hand and munificence
he not only obtained a safe and honourable asylum,
but was enabled during the remainder of his days,
to enjoy the society of his friends and faithful followers,
in affluent and dignified retirement.
He expressed to the last moment of his life the most
Grateful sense of his Majesty's paternal goodness towards him,
Praying for the preservation of his sacred person
and the prosperity of his dominions.

The foreigner who became thus distinguished amongst us was the second son of Hiacinto Paoli, an officer, who was created a Marquis, and appointed Grand Treasurer, and Marshal-general of the Island, during the transitory reign of the unfortunate Theodore the First, King of Corsica. Upon the interference of the French with the affairs of his country, the Marquis sought a retreat in Naples, and there devoted almost all his cares to the instruction of young Pascal, whose talents displayed themselves with firm precocity. He was educated by the Jesuits, who prophesied the celebrity of his career; and after being introduced at Court, received a commission in the Neapolitan service. When he left Corsica, he was a mere boy, but was even then taught to cherish a strong love for his native isle, to acquire a just sense of her wrongs, and a hatred of her oppressors. Thus prepared, he caught a vivid air at school from all those passages in the antient classics, which breathe a spirit of liberty; and from his very youth projected the enfranchisement of his fellow-countrymen.

Fourteen years of expatriation were thus spent, during which the experience of time, and the judgment of his father, gradually trained his actions to the practice of virtue, and fortified his mind with the principles of heroism. While his character was slowly developed to the admiration of his friends, the views he had long

Digitized by Google

planned for the good of his country ripened with consideration. The dominion of republican Genoa over that devoted island grew more sanguinary the longer it lasted; every character obnoxious to the ruling tyrants, whom the process of the law could not reach, was darkly removed by the dagger of the assassin; the patience of the people by degrees had sunk exhausted, and then at last despair arose from her form. The Corsicans conspired, and looked around for a leader in the work of deliverance; strong entreaties and warm invitations were addressed to all who could co-operate in the labour; and amongst others, Paoli revisited the land of his birth for the avowed purpose of emancipating it from a foreign yoke.

Upon his first arrival, he undertook the post of secretary to a kinsman, named Caffori, who practised as a physician, and had been chosen one of the insurgent leaders. This man, however, was soon after assassinated, and then Paoli advanced a claim to the vacant place. He was opposed by a Signor Matra; and so violently did the spirit of party rage amongst the friends of liberty, that a sort of battle was fought between the supporters of the rival candidates, in which the Paolists were beaten, and compelled to fly. Matra, therefore, succeeded in his election; but, ere long, shared the miserable fate of Caffori, and then Paoli again solicited the suffrages of the people, for the honours of a chieftainry. He succeeded, and even acquired a power far more ample than he either expected, or seems at first to have desired.

A general assembly was constituted, consisting of the generals, and chosen representatives from the different towns and parishes, who came to a unanimous vote, that the election of one political and general chief was indispensably necessary to their common safety, and that the virtues and ability of General Paoli made him alone worthy of the choice. So far the tide of events ran smooth and prosperous: a different course of things, however, now set in. Paoli found himself elected chief without any opposition whatever, but also without any means to support the power, save those he derived from the resources of his own ingenuity; for there was no money in the treasury, and no arms in the arsenal. In this predicament his first care was to satisfy the people that he had no vile ambition to arrogate to himself an uncontrolled or matchless authority: he therefore took pains to

Digitized by Google

render all his acts and ordinances, as strictly as possible, conformable to the ancient customs and manners of the country. Thus it was that in the management of the public affairs, which he undertook with some reluctance, he insisted upon the aid of two counsellors of state, and a representative from one of the provinces, who was changed every month.

The first effort he had to make was to expel the enemy from the bosom of the island, who held in many places a fast and dangerous hold. This design being in a great measure accomplished by a series of bold plans, bravely enforced; his next care was to correct and improve the condition of the people, who had sunk into a state of almost brutal depravity under the lengthened pressure of their miserable thraldom. With this view he opened a University at Corte, and issued directions for the establishment of popular schools throughout every town and village under his jurisdiction. Meanwhile, the plan of hostilities was carried on with variable success; the open country was cleared of the Genoese, but the fortified towns were still in their hands, and offered the prospect of no vain resistance to the untrained and ill armed natives. Such a state of things could only be overthrown by desperate measures; and with a deep resolution of expelling the tyrants, and securing the prosperity of the island, Paoli led his little army to the siege of the Castle of San Fiorenzo. It was composed of brave men, and trusty; each and all of them far better prepared to 'do or die,' than instructed how to effect the one object, or economise the other; they had no idea of the modes of tactical approach, and systematic attack, and were, moreover, unprotected by a single cannon of any description. The injury they could inflict upon a place regularly fortified and defended, was therefore but trifling; but they persevered, and the republic of Genoa became seriously alarmed. That machine of despotic power was now tottering on the verge of a decay, which was only superinduced by its own excesses; it made an effort, however, to support its possessions, and sent forward a reinforcement of 500 men to Corsica, while, by a negociation with the King of France, it politically sought to lighten the burden of the contest.

The result of these measures was such as might naturally be expected from a power so successful in intrigue, and ambitious

Digitized by Google

as France has ever been. Six battalions of French troops invested the maritime towns of Corsica, a treaty was set on foot for the purchase of the equivocal rights which Genoa pretended to possess, and a formal transfer of the island for 4,000,000 livres was made at the very time that conferences were maintained with Paoli, by which he was tacitly confirmed in his chieftaincy. But the ultimate aim of these proceedings was too violent to be adjusted on paper, and a second body of troops was landed from France, under the Marquis of Chauvelin, in 1768, which soon came into formal contact with the independent army under Paoli. The reinforcement consisted of 8000 men, still farther protected by a fleet of ten sail, and, naturally enough, advantages were gained in almost every encounter with the undisciplined natives. Still as the resistance was gallant, so was the cost of victory always dear: the Corsicans generally succeeded in their skirmishes. This precarious superiority continued until the French commander was compelled to make known his apprehensions for ultimate victory, and apply for additional support from home. Then did Paoli collect all his strength for a signal blow: he gave formal battle to the invaders on the 5th of September, 1768, and in the issue completely triumphed. The French lost 4 pieces of cannon, and the colours of their royal legion, while their general was forced to fly to Bastia for safety, where a truce highly favourable to the cause of independence was readily granted. Treachery, however, now came forward to thwart the success of valour. Dumourier, who was afterwards celebrated as a general of the victorious armies of republican France, was at this time an adjutant of the French forces in Corsica. Convinced by the dictates of his natural talents of what ought to be the result of a contest so ill proportioned, he set the suspension of arms at defiance, and without any authority or command, seized upon the post of Isola Rosa, and carried the castle of Giralette by storm.

Thus flagrantly revived, the struggle raged on with fury, and the French government sent forward a third body of reinforcements to secure so unexpected an advantage. The Corsicans still resisted with spirit, but it was easy to foresee that no valour could long resist numbers and arms so decidedly superior. Notwithstanding all this, Paoli held out to the very last, and only ceased to fight

Digitized by Google

when, one after the other, his followers had been cut off, almost to a man, from his side. In this extremity, his only chance of personal safety was in flight; and, after various adventures, he succeeded in reaching an English frigate, and was faithfully conveyed to Great Britain. Here his conduct was honourably approved; the heroism of his exertions was admired by men of all parties; he was presented at Court, and pensioned by the King. This fortune enabled him to live with a style of becoming affluence in Portman-square, where his society was not only courted by the great, but also enjoyed by the most distinguished in art and literature, amongst whom were Johnson, Goldsmith, and Reynolds; while his table was always hospitably covered for every exile, like himself, from a home and the continent.

Three and twenty years passed over his head in this happy state, when an event unexpectedly occurred, which once more summoned him to the busy theatre of political manœuvres. The people of France, wearied with the yoke which their kings had so long and so severely held over them, obtained a National Assembly by force, and the language of domination was abandoned, although the spirit of it was bitterly retained. The affairs of Corsica naturally pressed forward for the most serious attention, and it was determined to make the island a department of France, and secure to the people the same laws and liberties as the great nation herself aspired to possess. To effect these advantages, Paoli was summoned to Paris, and, after resigning his pension from the King of Great Britain, he obeyed the invitation. Presented before the bar of the National Assembly, he delivered an eloquent address in favour of the claims of his native country to justice and freedom, and was ultimately voted into the possession of his former command, for which, after swearing fidelity to the French King, he set out at the public expense. The death of that monarch soon followed, and Paoli was involved in difficulties as violent and unjust as any he had before encountered. Corsica became the scene of ardent altercations, and it was soon evident that the promises of the French National Assembly were hollow, and that nothing short of uncontrolled dominion was intended, and nothing short of an unconditional submission would be enforced. Under these adverse prospects there only remained the choice of a dependance

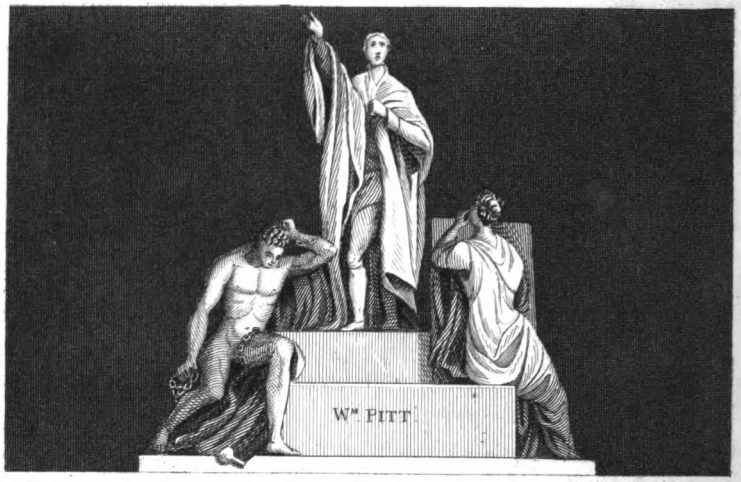
Digitized by Google

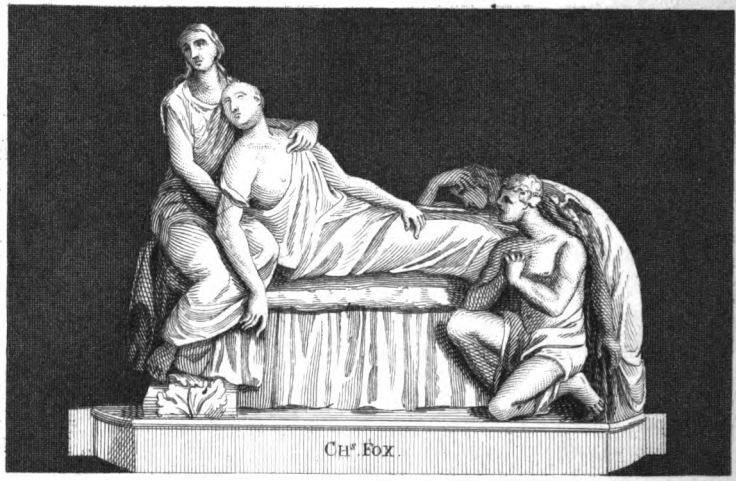
either upon England or upon France; the former was soon preferred; her fleet was then riding triumphantly in the Mediterranean; and Paoli summoned a meeting of his countrymen, and proposed a union of Corsica to the crown of Great Britain. The project was received with acclamation, and ratified with joy; but, as the success of the British has already been noticed in the lives of Sir John Moore and Lord Nelson, another detail of it may be spared here.

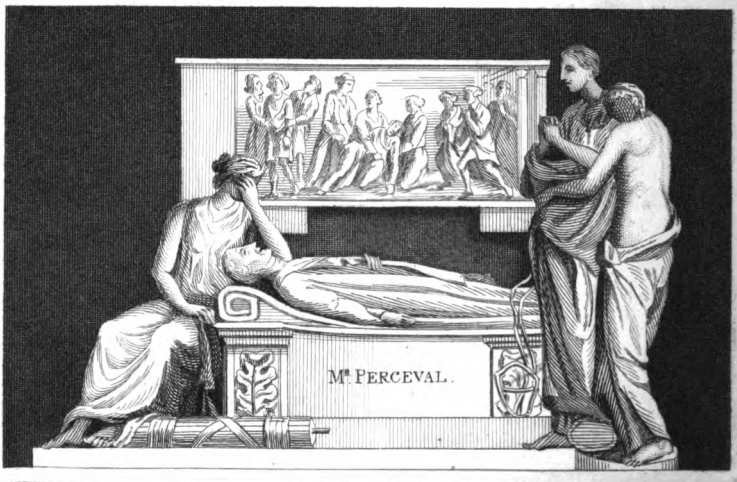
There is now left but little to add to the life of Paoli, and that little is to be told with pain. Some disagreements occurred between him and the British authorities, which became so unpleasant that, sooner than remain offensive, though he had hoped to have remained in peace, he forsook his native land, and became a voluntary exile, first in Italy, and afterwards in England. At Leghorn he lost the remains of his fortune by mercantile failures; and in London was discountenanced by the Court, and unrelieved by the government. He settled, first in an obscure lodging near Oxford-street, and afterwards in a small house in the Edgware Road. Here it is that the account of his epitaph is incorrect: from this period, his life was certainly retired; it was also dignified, as far as personal bearing can justify that quality of praise; but it was by no means affluent, and far from what it ought to have been. The common opinion was, that our government had treated him ill, and nothing has been advanced to extenuate the charge: he was honourably patronised while there appeared a likelihood of advantage from his services, but publicly neglected when there remained nothing to be acquired from his labours. His life, therefore, may be cited as an example of the fickleness of fortune, and the ingratitude of political associations.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google







London Published by John Williams. 44 Paternoster Row. Oct. 1822.

Digitized by Google

RIGHT HON. SPENCER PERCEVAL, M.P.

Of the Right Honourable Spencer Perceval, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and first Lord of the Treasury, only a succinct account can be here given; for his talents were in no respect strikingly superior to his station, and nothing in his public actions appears signally original. He is to be classed amongst that thick-set host of statesmen, who manage the great trust confided to their care with such complicated harmony, that it is almost impossible to discover any one paternal mover of the good measures they may happen to enforce, or detect any personal responsibility for the evil they may occasion. Such a ministry can be adequately treated of in history alone; for, as the interest it excites is collectively produced, it cannot be portioned out in the individuality of a memoir. The honours which followed Mr. Perceval's death gave him a distinct rank in the order of this work; but it cannot be suppressed, that those honours were mainly provoked by a spirit of sympathy for the tragical means and unprecedented grounds upon which he forfeited his life; accordingly, in the following sketch it is simply proposed to supply the reader with his character as a statesman, and that end will be accomplished by shortly enumerating a few of the acts which he supported, when in office.

Descended from an ancient family, which had been connected with the public service of the country for upwards of a century before his time, he was born on the 1st of November, 1762, at the house of his father, John, second Earl Egmont, in South Audley-street, London. After passing through Harrow school, he entered himself at Trinity College, Cambridge; and after proceeding M. A. became a member of Lincoln's Inn. He went

Digitized by Google

the midland circuit, and pleaded in the Court of Chancery, as well as in the King's Bench; but his practice was never extensive. The noiseless preferment to which he rose must therefore be ascribed, in a great measure, to the political influence of his family. His first official rank was counsel to the Admiralty; his second, counsel to the University of Cambridge. He obtained a silk gown in the thirtieth year of his age; was nominated Solicitor-general in 1799, and rose to be Attorney-general in 1802. This post he resigned upon the accession of Mr. Fox to power, in 1806, and with that event, his career as a lawyer may be said to terminate, and his course as a minister to begin.

His first introduction into Parliament, a circumstance which resulted from the patronage of his family, occurred during the year 1797. Northampton was the place he sat for, and he continued to represent that borough, without intermission, until the day of his sudden death. Taking his seat on the ministerial benches, he avowed the principles of a Tory, and soon earned praise for the aid he gave to his party. Dispassionate in his manner, reasonable in his style, and resolute in his language, he gradually rose by unpopular declamations to become the adopted champion of the high churchmen; and while he vindicated every practice and doctrine of Protestant ascendancy, repudiated those measures by which a liberal body in the state proposed to reconcile religious animosities, and pertinaciously upheld a system of administration, impure in many of its sources, and most burthensome in all its effects.

Such was the political character of Mr. Perceval, when the death of Mr. Fox, in 1806, dislodged the Whigs from place, and he strangely ascended to the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer. This unexpected change was accounted for in a way, which, if true, was far from honourable. The report has been currently received, but never positively authenticated; nevertheless, it may be maintained, that when the differences between the Prince of Wales and his consort first broke out, Mr. Perceval was retained as a professional adviser to her Royal Highness, and in that capacity undertook the composition of a book, which was intended to convince the public, not only that the lady was innocent of the charges brought against her, but was even entitled to institute complaints for certain injuries offered to her state. As

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

LONDON.

Published as the Act directs by John Williams

Digitized by Google

it seems pretty clear that a work of this nature was actually printed, the doubtful part of the story is, whether Mr. Perceval bartered for his preferment to the Exchequer by engaging to suppress a publication so obnoxious. The point lies in the mysteries of political intrigue, and we can only proceed to describe the public course of the new minister. He took the lead of his associates, and had the arduous task of counteracting a powerful parliamentary opposition, made doubly formidable by a series of disagreeable enactments, and disastrous events. Almost the first proceeding of Mr. Perceval's administration was egregiously censurable: apprehensive of the assistance which it was in the power of Denmark to lend to the prosperous cause of France, he despatched a British fleet and army to Copenhagen, without a solitary provocation, seized upon the naval force of that peaceful ally, and escorted it by superior violence to England. An enmity had thus been scarcely sown with the Danes, when the foundations of a war were laid with the Americans, by an arbitrary refusal to deliver up a few sailors who had been seized on board the Chesapeake frigate, upon the presumption of their being British subjects. Our foreign connexions were additionally embarrassed, in 1808, by a declaration of war from Spain; and though Sir Arthur Wellesley did honour to our arms by the victory of Vimeira, yet the defeat of General Whitlocke at Buenos Ayres, and the fatal retreat of Sir John Moore's army from Corunna, threw a gloom over the affairs of the country.

Our naval exploits,* too, failed to strike with their usual splen-

* To the general adversity of our martial adventures about this period, there was one signal exception, which cost the life of a gallant officer, George Nicholas Hardinge, Captain of the San Fiorenzo. He has been honoured with a national monument in St. Paul's Cathedral, and is, therefore, appropriately a biographical subject for these pages. He was the second son of the Rev. Henry Hardinge, Rector of Stanhope, in the county of Durham, and was born at Kingston-upon-Thames, in the month of November, 1781. Being adopted by his uncle, George Hardinge, who was a Welsh Judge, he was sent to Eton School in his ninth year, and first designed for the bar. Betraying, however, not only an aversion to all study, but almost an incapacity for any serious impressions, and obtaining no distinction but for rough wit and a bold reckless spirit, his relations were thrown into some apprehensions for his professional success, when in his twelfth year he took a sudden inclination to the life of a sailor. Some expostulations

Digitized by Google

dour; while in domestic matters, the parliamentary disputes concerning the droits of the Admiralty, the impeachment of the Duke

were resorted to with a view of shaking this propensity, but as it appeared to be deeply founded, he was allowed to become a midshipman on board the Meleager, in 1793. His station was the Mediterranean, and he had, consequently, a share in the various achievements by which that sea was distinguished at the close of the last century. The most flattering accounts are preserved of his conduct: he was remarkable not only for bravery, but for habits the most diligent, piercing talent, and an energetic spirit. In 1801 he was shipwrecked on board the Aigle frigate, off the Isle of Planes, on the coast of Africa, and soon after received a Lieutenancy from Sir Sidney Smith, in consequence of his gallantry while commanding a gun-boat at the siege of Acre. These services were also honoured with the public thanks of the commanding officer, and a gold medal. But it was not until Earl St. Vincent became first Lord of the Admiralty that Hardinge was placed in a rank fitted for his character. Being made a master and commander in 1802, he was appointed Captain of the Terror bomb-ship in the following year, and rendered the most effectual assistance to Admiral Sir James Saumerez, who professed himself unable to pronounce a sufficient eulogy upon his zeal and courage. In 1804 he was removed to the Scorpion, and captured the Atalante, a Dutch war sloop, off the Texel, with such spirit and ability, that he was immediately gazetted a Post-captain, and presented with a sword, valued at 100 guineas, by the Committee of Lloyd's Coffee House. Hardinge obtained great praise for epistolary eloquence; and the reader is, therefore, presented with an extract from his own account of this engagement. It was addressed to his Admiral, and, after some accurate introduction, proceeded thus:—"I had the good fortune, or, as it has been considered by some, the honour to be the first man who boarded her. She was prepared for us with broad nettings up, and all the other customary implements of defence. But the noise and alarm so much intimidated her crew, that many of them ran below in a panic, leaving to us the painful task of combating those whom we respected most. The decks were slippery, in consequence of rain, so that grappling with my first opponent, a mate of the watch, I fell, but recovered my position, fought him upon equal terms, and killed him. I then engaged the captain, as brave a man as any service ever boasted; he had almost killed one of my seamen. To my shame, be it spoken, he disarmed me, and was on the point of killing me, when Mr. Williams, the master, came up, rescued me at the peril of his own life, and enabled me to recover my sword. At this time all the men were come from the boats, and were in possession of the deck. Two were going to fall upon the captain at once, I ran up, held them back, and adjured him to accept quarter. With inflexible spirit he disdained the gift, kept us at bay, and compelled us to kill him. He fell covered with honourable wounds. The vessel was ours, &c. &c."

Digitized by Google

of York, and a general sense of the corruption incidental to ministerial majorities in the House of Commons excited an animated clamour, against the administration of Mr. Perceval. The state of things became still more deeply involved by the disgrace of our Walcheren expedition, and the open conviction of the Treasury for trafficking in boroughs. From all this it came to pass, that in 1809 the government was totally disconcerted: the Duke of Portland, Lord Castlereagh, and Mr. Canning, resigned their places; and the two Chancellors, Lord Eldon, and Mr. Perceval, were left almost alone to manage the affairs of the nation. They made several unavailing attempts to reinforce their power by the co-operation of the Lords Grey and Grenville, but finding it impossible to conciliate the liberal part of the Parliament, remodelled the administration amongst their former friends.

In these changes the post of First Lord of the Treasury was added to Mr. Perceval's charge: he had before been the leader in the House of Commons, and was now officially established Premier of the Ministry. No great satisfaction, how-

After some disappointments in getting either an effective ship or a station that accorded with his health, Captain Hardinge received the command of the St. Fiorenzo, at Bombay, in 1807, and was despatched to cruise for enterprizes. He was almost in despair of an opportunity for action, when, on the 6th of March, 1808, he came in sight of La Piedmontaise, a French frigate, mounting 50 guns, and carrying 566 men. The result of his sanguinary encounter with this vessel, was her capture and his death; a circumstance which was much deplored, and by many warm expressions of public sympathy. The parliamentary memorial of his fall is placed in the panel above the monument to Captain Falknor, which stands in the south transept of St. Paul's Cathedral. It is executed by Charles Manning, and presents a sarcophagus, on the one side of which is a figure of Fame prostrate in grief; and on the other, an Indian, mournfully seated with the British colours. The design is neat, the execution good, and the epitaph this:—

NATIONAL
To GEO. N. HARDINGE, Esq.
Captain of the St. Fiorenzo, 26 guns, 186 men;
Who attacked, on three successive days,
La Piedmontaise, 50 guns, 566 men,
And fell near Ceylon, in the path to
VICTORY,
8th March, 1808, aged 28 years.

Digitized by Google

ever, seems to have been felt by the country at these measures; the Peninsular war proceeded successfully; but the arbitrary commitment of Sir Francis Burdett to the Tower upon a futile charge of having violated the privilege of Parliament, raised a popular commotion of ominous import, which was in no degree abated by the contentions resulting from the King's derangement, and the revived altercations respecting the establishment of a Regency. Upon these questions, and, indeed, upon all others issuing out of the circumstances which have already been alluded to in this sketch, Mr. Perceval took a conspicuous part; and eagerly vindicated the conduct of the government, as well as the principles upon which it acted, with unqualified approbation. That conduct, however, was in many instances corrupt; those principles were generally illiberal; and no light misfortunes were brought upon the country, by the one and the other. The public burthens were enormously increased, the revenue suffered from repeated defalcations, and the character of the nation was advanced by no sufficient advantages, while its comforts were improved by no salutary concessions.

Nevertheless, Mr. Perceval's administration appeared to be energetically founded, and no speedy change of measures or men were apprehended. The policy of persevering in a most expensive warfare, and the propriety of resisting all domestic innovations, seemed to be firmly confirmed, when a melancholy termination was suddenly put to his career, and his life. On the 11th of May, 1812, he repaired to the House of Commons, and had passed through the folding doors of the lobby, when a pistol was discharged against him by a man named Bellingham. The ball penetrated into the heart; he expired in a few moments; and his murderer was hung at Newgate within a week. For this act, of which the criminality is only equalled by its infatuation, Mr. Perceval offered no provocation, and Bellingham gave the following justification. He had been involved in some mercantile difficulties in Russia, which were followed up by an arbitrary imprisonment for the term of two years. He claimed, but failed to obtain redress at the hands of the British Ambassador, and returned home, broken in fortune, to petition for compensation from his own government. He importuned various ministers with

Digitized by Google

remonstrances, but urged no consideration upon which they felt justified in relieving him. He had formerly been afflicted with insanity, and a phrenzy seems now again to have seized him, for he took the outrageous resolution of revenging his own misfortunes by taking away the life of a fellow-creature.

Much consternation, and a deep sympathy, were excited by this tragical offence; and while the public concern was fully vivid, a very liberal provision was made for the family of the fallen minister, and the most respectful tributes were paid to his memory. In private life he was a most exemplary man, and, when thus removed from the animosities incidental to a public character, all parties concurred in a panegyric upon his virtues, and condolence for his loss. A pension of 2000*l.* a-year was granted to his widow, another of 1000*l.* was given to his eldest son, which was to be increased to 2000*l.* upon the death of his mother, and 50,000*l.* were settled upon eleven younger children. A monument to his memory in Westminster Abbey was the last subject respecting him to which the House of Commons devoted its attention. It stands preserved in one of the windows of the north aisle, and is well designed and executed, by Westmacott, R.A.; but, in the allegorical style. An effigy of the unfortunate minister is introduced upon a mattrass, with a statue of Power, indicated by the fasces, weeping over him, and figures of Truth and Temperance, the one distinguished by a bridle, and the other by a mirror, erect at his feet. Along the back-ground runs an animated scene in basso-relievo, descriptive of the lobby of the House of Commons at the moment of his fall: it is evidently a good performance; but who can avoid regretting that this, which is a principal, should here be converted into a secondary illustration of the death of the subject?

Digitized by Google

JOHN PHILIPS.

ADJOINING the tomb of Chaucer, in the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey, is a bust, in profile, of this poet, wreathed with vines and apple-trees, and inscribed with that motto from Virgil—'*This apple too shall bear its honours*,' which is prefixed to the poem on Cider. It was erected by Sir Simon, afterwards Earl Harcourt, and Lord High Chancellor of England, and has been particularly commended by the classical critics, for the elegant Latinity in which it is expressed. This merit, however, is, in many places, of that description which, by necessity, is limited to the language in which it occurs: no translation can convey mere felicity of idiom, and the epitaph on Philips is on that account not rendered into English in these pages. A faithful version would only detract from the reputation it has borne; for, turned into another tongue, several passages must sound redundant and inelegant. Still, by the scholar it will be read with a double interest: first, because it is the composition of Bishop Atterbury, celebrated as the friend of Pope, and memorable for his banishment during the ministry of Sir Robert Walpole; and secondly, because it seems to have been copied by Dr. Johnson in his inscription for the monumental tablet to Goldsmith. The borrowed passage is transcribed, and may, like most originals, be remarked for its superiority above the imitation from it. After mentioning that in his style of writing, Philips was second only to Milton, and nearly equal to him, the epitaph goes on to state—that, *whether he undertook to adorn a subject, trifling, grand, or common, he never perceived, or reached what did not become him; and wherever he employed his pen, was* AN AUTHOR OF SPEECH, AND FRAMER OF NUMBERS ALWAYS

Digitized by Google

EXQUISITE. Now Johnson praises Goldsmith as one by whom *scarcely any style of writing was left untouched, and no one touched, unadorned,* &c.,—substantially the same idea.

This is the order in which the epitaph is cut.

Herefordiæ conduntur ossa,
Hoc in delubro statuitur imago,
Britanniam omnem pervagatur fama
JOHANNIS PHILIPS;
Qui viris bonis doctisque juxta charus,
Immortale suum ingenium,
Eruditione multiplici excultum,
Miro animi candore,
Eximia morum simplicitate
Honestavit.
Litterarum amœniarum sitim
Quam Wintoniæ puer sentire cœperat,
Inter Ædis Christi alumnos jugiter explevit,
In illo Musarum domicilio
Præclaris æmulorum studiis excitatus,
Optimis scribendi magistris semper intentus,
Carmina sermone patrio composuit
A Græcis Latinisque fontibus feliciter deducta,
Atticis Romanisque auribus omnino digna;
Versuum quippe harmoniam
Rythmo didicerat.
Antiquo illo libero, multiformi,
Ad res ipsas apto prorsus et attemperato,
Non numeris in eundum ferè orbem redeuntibus,
Non clausularum similiter cadentium sono
Metiri:
Uni in hoc laudis genere Miltono secundus,
Primoque pœne par.
Res seu tenues, seu grandes, seu mediocres
Ornandas sumpserat
Nusquam, non quod decuit,
Et videt et assecutus est,
Egregius, quocunque stylum verteret,
Fandi author et modorum artifex.

Digitized by Google

Fas sit huic,
Auso licet a tua metrorum lege discedere,
O Poesis Anglicanæ, pater atque conditor, Chaucere,
Alterum tibi latus claudere,
Vatum certe cineres, tuos undique stipantium
Non dedecebit chorum.
Simon Harcourt miles,
Viri bene de se, de litteris meriti
Quoad viveret, fautor,
Post obitum pie memor,
Hoc illi saxum poni voluit.
J. Philips, Stephani, S. T. P. Archidiaconi
Salop. filius, natus est Bamptoniæ
In agro Oxon. Dec. 30, 1676,
Obiit Herefordiæ, Feb. 15, 1708.

Of the many reasons that have been assigned in favour of literary biography, no one appears more interesting than that principle of equity by which the author, who has made other men the subjects of immortality in his writings, puts in a just claim to be particularised for the same honours himself. Such was the motive by which Edmund Smith, the classical author of the tragedy of 'Phedrus and Hippolita,' was induced to begin a discourse upon the life and writings of Philips; and it is with similar feelings that, what he failed to finish, is here completed.

John, the son of Stephen Philips, Archdeacon of Salop, was born on the 30th of December, 1676, at Bampton, in Oxfordshire, of which place his father was also curate. After having begun his studies at Winchester school, where he was early distinguished by the assiduity of his application, and the superiority of his exercises, he went to Oxford, and put himself at Christ's Church College, under the care of Dr. Aldrich, a man whom he has gratefully commemorated in his poems. Long before this period, he is praised by his biographers for his intimate acquaintance with, and fine appreciation of the beauties of Homer, Virgil, and Milton, to the latter of whom he gave so decided a preference, that he already took his Paradise Lost both in style and manner for his model in verse. For years he made it his

Digitized by Google

delight to trace, by progressive steps, the art of Milton's peculiar excellence; and it is said, that there is not a passage in the latter bearing any resemblance to the Greek and Latin writers which he had not detected and exemplified. Such was the course of reading by which he obtained the distinctive appellation of the imitator of Milton; and though the reader may not be inclined, with the partiality of his early biographers, to admit him second in rank to his immortal prototype, still the judgment displayed in his admiration, and the time devoted to the cultivation of so powerful a style of verse, ought not to be passed over without a due share of praise.

In the University he became associated with the greatest wits, and most learned students, and soon ranked eminent amongst his cotemporaries. At that period social intimacy was intensely cultivated, both at Oxford and Cambridge; and the tavern, much oftener than the College Hall, was the parade for ready parts, and the theatre of fine acquirements. Of such an intercourse, Philips was particularly fond, and to the warm applause derived over a pipe and sober glass, was the measure of his ambition for the better part of his life confined. But it were unjust not to add, that he furnished a rare example of one who indulged in this kind of company, for the quick and free pleasures it provoked; and was never found either loose in his manners, or immoral in his conduct. By all who knew him, he has been commended as one modest in merit, and diffident in action; and always rather desirous to enjoy the talents of others, than display his own. A weak constitution, and a sickly life, unfitted him for the struggles of an active existence; and he lived poor and private, but yet contented. To such a man, it were indeed severe to deny the moderate indulgence of a pipe, a social friend, and a glass of ale.

With his reputation thus confined to the circle of his personal acquaintances he composed the 'Splendid Shilling.' It was designed for the entertainment of his own coterie, but the novelty of the idea, and excellence of the execution, were highly attractive; the copies circulated beyond the University, and the poem soon after appeared in print, without his knowledge. The impression, however, was full of blunders; and, to make the act of piracy even more insolent, an assertion was introduced on the title-page, that the poem was corrected for the press by the author.

Digitized by Google

This circumstance forced a genuine edition from him, which immediately struck the public regard. The project was certainly original: it is a classical burlesque, and the perverse application of the sounding phrase, and stately order of Milton, to the commonest events, and most trivial thoughts, pleased, because it surpassed, and was grateful because uninvidious. As a specimen, the opening lines might suffice:—

Sing, heavenly Muse,
Things unattempted yet in prose or rhime,
A shilling, breeches, and chimæras dire.
Happy the man, who void of care or strife,
In silken or in leathern purse retains
A splendid shilling! He nor hears with pain
New oysters cried, nor sighs for cheerful ale;
But with his friends, when nightly mists arise,
To Juniper's Magpie or Town Hall* repairs;
Where mindful of the nymph, whose wanton eye
Transfix'd his soul, and kindled amorous flames,
Chloe or Phillis; he each circling glass,
Wisheth her health and joy, and equal love.
Meanwhile he smokes and laughs at merry tale,
Or pun ambiguous, or conundrum quaint.
But I, whom griping penury surrounds, &c.

After a contrasted description of him, who, forlorn upon a garret, wants a shilling, he proceeds:

Thus, while my joyless-minutes tedious flow,
With looks demure, and silent pace a dun,
Horrible monster! hated by gods and men,
To my aerial citadel ascends.
With vocal heel, high thundering at my gate,
With hideous accent thrice he calls—I know
The voice ill boding, and the solemn sound.
What should I do, or whither turn? Amaz'd,
Confounded, to the dark recess I fly
Of coal-hole; straight my bristling hairs
Thro' sudden fear; a chilly sweat bedews

* Two celebrated ale-houses at Oxford in 1700.

Digitized by Google

My shuddering limbs, and wonderful to tell!
My tongue forgets her faculty of speech,
So horrible he seems! His faded brow
Entrench'd with many a frown, and comic beard,
And spreading band admir'd by modern saints,
Disastrous acts forebode. In his right hand
Long scrolls of paper solemnly he waves,
With characters and figures dire inscrib'd,
Grievous to mortal eyes—Ye Gods avert
Such plagues from righteous men! Behind him stalks
Another monster, not unlike himself,
Sullen of aspect, by the vulgar called
A *Catch-pole*, whose polluted hands the Gods
With force incredible and magic charms
First have endued. If he his ample palm
Should haply on ill-fated shoulder lay
Of debtor, straight his body to the touch
Obsequious (as whilome knights were wont,)
To some enchanted castle is convey'd,
Where gates impregnable, and coercive chains,
In durance strict detain him.

The applause bestowed upon the 'Splendid Shilling' was so great, and the poetical character of the author consequently grew so high, that when, upon the victory of Blenheim, Lord Godolphin and the Earl of Halifax solicited Addison, as the organ of the Whigs, to celebrate the glory of the battle, in suitable verse, Viscount Bolingbroke, and Harley, Earl of Oxford, prevailed on Philips to sing the praises of the Tories upon the same subject. The honour of their selection, it is said, he endeavoured to shun, but the importunities of his friends were not to be overcome; and his poem of 'Blenheim' made its appearance in 1705. Rivalship with Addison is a formidable test, by which no very decided honours are likely to be acquired; because the reputation of the author of 'Cato' is, upon general grounds, so deservedly high, that the world has not patience to enter upon a fair comparison of particular compositions. Another positive advantage, which, according to the taste of most readers, Addison's 'Campaign' holds over Philips's 'Blenheim,' is, that the former is composed in rhyme, while the latter is written in blank verse.

Digitized by Google

Dr. Johnson distinguishes between the two performances, by saying, that 'Blenheim' is the work of one who formed his ideas of a field of battle, from the heroic poems of antiquity; whereas, Addison displays the qualities and movements of a modern hero, with great propriety. These are the reasons upon which the superior popularity of the 'Campaign' has been accounted for; but, even when admitted with all the force they can apply, it may still be asserted, that Philips has been very unjustly treated; for, to a certainty, he has completed his design with a happier manner than his celebrated competitor. His is a better model of blank verse than Addison's is of rhyme; and, upon the greater question of coincidence with nature and fact, there is really no very marked ground of preference between the two. Addison's simile of the Angel has been enormously praised, and is universally known; but the following comparison, by Philips, though less striking, is more probable, and equally appropriate. As a quotation, it has this praise, that it does not rise so superior to the context of the poem, as to be considered not only far better than the rest of it, but also far better than any thing ever written by the same hand:—

> In equal scale
> Long hung the fight; few marks of fear were seen,
> None of retreat:—as when two adverse winds
> Sublim'd from dewy vapours, in mid sky
> Engage with horrid shock, the ruffled brine
> Roars stormy; they together dash the clouds,
> Levying their equal force with utmost rage:
> Long undecided lasts the airy strife;—
> So they incensed, &c.

In the following year he produced his longest composition—'Cyder,' a poem, in two parts, which was written upon the plan of Virgil's 'Georgics,' and was hailed upon its appearance with undisturbed applause. But it is not his most memorable work; though we are told that it continued to be read with kind feelings for a long period: that period, however, is now passed, and is not over likely to return. The praise Dr. Johnson bestows upon it is too peculiar to be omitted:—he states, upon practical autho-

Digitized by Google

rity, that the precepts it contains are exact and just; and that it is, therefore, at once a book of entertainment and of science. But then comes the summary character, that, although written with much art, it has few beauties.

Secure of applause, and confident of power, Philips now directed his mind to a higher subject, and formed the design of a poem on the Resurrection, and Day of Judgment; but the state of his health precluded all execution of the work. Habitually consumptive, and oppressed by an acute asthma, his infirmity in the year 1707 grew so delicate, that his physicians advised a visit to Bath. Thither he went, dragging a slow disease along with him; and there he suffered many severe conflicts from it, with a cheerfulness of spirit which did honour to the equanimity of his disposition, and the philosophy of his mind. The summer passed over his head, but no alleviation of the distemper came with it, and he proceeded to Hereford to see his mother. Beneath her roof the few hopes of recovery he brought with him soon vanished; during the course of the winter the asthma seized upon his lungs with redoubled fierceness, and he expired on the 15th of February, 1708. His remains were interred in the cathedral church of Hereford, where a Latin epitaph is inscribed to his memory. For one who has done so little, he enjoys a very high reputation—a fortune which may be ascribed, in a great measure, to personal endearment. He seems to belong to that secondary class of writers, who conceive better than they execute—who hit upon a capital plan, but fail to recommend it by proper shades and varied relief. The 'Splendid Shilling' is more an argument for a poem, than a full and adequate performance; and no reader of his 'Cyder' can help deploring the laborious merit he designed, and the ordinary satisfaction he produces.

Digitized by Google

SIR THOMAS PICTON, K. B.

LITTLE comment is required for the parliamentary monument of this officer: it stands near the door in the north transept of St. Paul's, and altogether is a labour of most insignificant fiction inartificially displayed. Gahagan is the artist from whose chisel it emanated. Genius, personified in the statue of a winged youth, leans on the shoulder of an ancient warrior, who is designed to represent Valour, and stands in the act of receiving a wreath of laurel from the hands of Victory. Behind this group is placed a pillar, surmounted with a bust of the deceased. The inscription is as dispirited as the sculpture:—

Erected at the Public Expense
to Lieutenant-General Sir THOMAS PICTON, K.G. C.B.
who, after distinguishing himself in the victories of
Buzaco, Fuentes de Onor, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Vittoria,
the Pyrennees, Orthes, and Toulouse,
terminated his long and glorious military service
in the ever memorable Battle of Waterloo,
to the splendid success of which
his genius and valour eminently contributed,
on the xviii of June, MDCCCXV.

Picton was a native of Wales, where his family held ancient possessions, and he entered the army as an ensign, in the 12th regiment of foot, during the year 1771. In 1773 he was quartered at Gibraltar, under Eliot, Lord Heathfield, where he obtained a lieutenancy in 1776, and remained engaged in profitable activity until the year 1778. He got his first company in the

Digitized by Google

LONDON
Published by John Williams 44, Paternoster Row.
March. 1826.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

75th foot, and was suffered to remain a captain for the term of sixteen years, that is, from 1778 to 1794. In 1783, his head quarters being at Bristol, a mutiny broke out in his regiment, in consequence of which, the men were disbanded, and the officers put upon half-pay, but not before Picton was honoured with the thanks of the commander-in-chief, for his conduct in the emergency.

Year after year now passed tediously away; and Picton, who from the onset of his career was remarkable for professional ardour, led an anxious life, petitioning for a commission, but restricted by economy and retirement. At last, worn out by the disappointments he met at home, he set sail for the West Indies, in 1794, and landing at Jamaica, was fortunate enough to obtain a majority in the 68th foot, from Sir John Vaughan, who at the same time nominated him an aid-de-camp, and soon after made him deputy quarter-master-general of the island, a preferment which involved the local rank of lieutenant-colonel. Two years after, a vacancy occurred at the head of his department, and he aspired to fill it; but another officer was put above him, and he was on the point of returning to England, when Sir Ralph Abercrombie, who had just reached that station with the command of an offensive army, engaged his assistance in the approaching hostilities. The offer being promptly accepted, he took an active part in the reduction of Lucie, where the opinion entertained of his abilities may be estimated by the tenor of a proclamation which required, that all orders coming from Lieutenant-colonel Picton, should be considered as orders coming from the Commander-in-chief. He next received the lieutenant-colonelcy of the 68th foot, with which he fought at the storming of St. Vincent's, then repaired to Martinique with Abercrombie, and after a short interval, returned to England in the same company.

During the course of the same year, Abercrombie resumed his command in the West Indies, and was again attended in his proceedings by Picton. Trinidad being reduced, Picton's services upon that and former occasions were rewarded with the appointment of governor and captain-general of the island. From this period, the year 1786, until 1802, when the administration of the place was put under the control of commissioners, he continued to discharge the duties of his office with a zeal, which secured to him

Digitized by Google

acknowledgments from the various commanders-in-chief upon the station, and the thanks of the ministry at home. Nevertheless, the circumstances under which he resigned his authority were attended with a popular clamour, so loud and revengeful as to bring on a court-martial, from which, however, he was honourably acquitted. One fact, in particular, was then established against him, which operated greatly to disparage his character:—it was proved that he had subjected a female slave to the torture of a flogging, for the purpose of extorting from her a confession of some theft she was accused of having committed. An act so repugnant to the humanity of British jurisprudence at first impelled the public to reprobate Picton as a monster of martial tyranny, but the general odium soon died away; for it was clearly shown, that he was all along particularly averse to the proceeding, and was only induced to sanction its barbarity, by the remonstrances of the legal advisers in the prosecution, who cited the Spanish laws by which the island was then governed, and upon their enactments claimed the inquisitional punishment as an undoubted right.

So well satisfied was the War-office with the result of this investigation, that he was made a colonel on the 1st of January, 1803, a command in which nothing memorable is recorded of his conduct. On the 25th of April, 1808, he was promoted to be a major-general; and when the injudicious expedition to Walcheren was projected, during the following year, he was put at the head of a brigade, which assisted at the siege of Flushing, a town of which he subsequently became governor. The disasters of this undertaking, and the mortality which swept away the troops embarked upon it, were enormous: no less than a million of money was expended upon it, and as many as 15,000 men, out of an army of 37,000, were either killed or disabled by the ravages of fever. Considerable praise was bestowed upon Picton, for the solicitude with which he tended the suffering troops, and the kindness with which he assisted the destitute inhabitants; but he was obliged to bend, in his turn, to the pernicious influence of the climate, and returned to England, dangerously reduced by fever and ague.

Scarcely was he recovered from the effects of these enervating disorders, when he was sent into Portugal, and there attached to the staff of the Peninsular army. As soon as his health be-

Digitized by Google

came re-established, he was entrusted with the command of the 3d division. The first occasion in which his services were now found more than usually eminent, was when Lord Wellington, having passed the valley of Mondego, collected all his forces on the Sierra de Busaco, and was there attacked on the 25th, 26th, and 27th of September, 1810, by Ney and Regnier. Various movements were effected with steady alacrity, and much dexterous fighting occurred on those days, throughout the whole lines, during which, Picton, in the right wing, usurped a conspicuous part, and was victorious in every emergency. Two thousand of the enemy were killed upon the field, but the advantages of the British, though decisive, produced no great results. Picton's name was repeatedly mentioned with praise in the Gazette, and in return, he was gratified with the colonelcy of the 77th foot, early in the following year.

After being present at Massena's attack near Fuentes de Onore, he manœuvred his division at the siege of Badajos,* on the 19th

* Of the officers who fell upon this occasion, one, Lieutenant Beresford, is commemorated in Westminster Abbey, and two, Majors-general Robert Craufurd, and Henry Mackinnon, in St. Paul's Cathedral. Beresford and Mackinnon were accidentally blown up by powder, and Craufurd was mortally wounded in the breach. Beresford has only a marble tablet, which is placed near the bust of General Paoli, and is thus inscribed:—

Sacred to the memory of John Theophilus Beresford, eldest son of Marcus Beresford, and the Lady Frances his wife, Lieutenant in the 88th Regiment of Foot, who died in the 21st year of his age, at Villa Formosa, in Spain, of wounds received from the exploding of a powder magazine, at Ciudad Rodrigo, after he had passed unhurt through eight years in voluntary service of the greatest danger, for which he received the thanks of the Commander-in-chief. Brave and zealous in his military duties, animated by a strong feeling of piety to God, and distinguished by his ardent filial affection and duty to his widowed mother, he has left to her the recollection of his rising virtues, as her only consolation under the irreparable loss she has sustained by his death. Born January 16, 1792, he died January 29, 1812; and was interred with military honours in the fort of Almeida.

'*Yea, speedily was he taken away, lest that wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul.*'

Wisdom of Solomon, Chap. iv. ver. 11.

Craufurd and Mackinnon are distinguished together, by a memorial which

Digitized by Google

of January, 1812, with a precision and ability which must have appeared far more glorious had he not been there gallantly rivalled by the other commanding officers. In less than half an hour after the attack commenced, the British succeeded in forming their lines on the ramparts of the town, and a formidable siege was then concluded by immediate submission. The governor, 1700 men, and 300 cannon, fell into the hands of the besiegers, and graced their victory.

But at the succeeding storming of Badajos, which submitted after a siege of eighteen days, he wrested far higher honours. Upon this occasion the obstacles opposed to the British, the exertions they had to make, and the losses they sustained, were arduously great. Their advance was broken by innumerable palisades, and clumps of stakes, to which dirk-blades and bayonets were lashed in a slanting position; the French were drawn up eight deep, with one rank firing while the other loaded; and no less than two ditches and a most ingenious chevaux-de-frise protected their immediate front. The assault was undertaken by escalade, and the fire opened at ten o'clock at night. By eleven Picton had adroitly converted a feint into a real attack, had carried all before him, and established his men in the castle, whence a violent effort was made to dislodge him. But he repulsed every charge, and secured his possession, full an hour before the other detachments were able to overcome the obstacles

occupies the panel above the monument to Captain Westcott, in the north transept of St. Paul's. It is the work of Bacon, jun. but it is not remarkable for merit: an engraving from it is given in the plate which faces the notice of General Bowes, in the ensuing life of Sir William Ponsonby. Upon a double tomb leans, at one end, a soldier, said to represent a Highlander, and at the other is seated rather an awkward figure of Victory, crowning a stand of colours, which occupy the centre, with laurel. The extremities are worked off with a Lion pawing a fallen Eagle, a gun and shield, carved with the arms of Spain, &c.

The epitaph is succinct:—

Erected by the Nation
To Major-General Robert Craufurd,
and Major-General Henry Mackinnon,
Who fell at Ciudad Rodrigo, Jan. 18, 1812.

Digitized by Google

opposed to their progress.* The conquest, however, was rapidly completed at every point, and of 5000 men who armed the garrison, 1200 were slaughtered, and the residue taken prisoners.

The Earl of Liverpool, in moving the thanks of the House of Lords to Lord Wellington and his army for this gallant action, introduced a particular compliment to the subject of this sketch. "The conduct of Major-general Picton," he observed, "could not fail to excite the most lively feelings of admiration, for it had inspired the army with confidence, and exhibited an example of science and bravery which had been surpassed by no other officer."

This blow delivered Portugal from the sufferings of French invasion, and gave an aspect the most favourable to the interests of Great Britain. Napoleon was now constrained to detach large bodies of men from the Spanish army, for the purpose of stemming the adversities of a complicated warfare in other quarters; Wellington's force amounted nearly to 100,000 men, and the French were necessitated to retire gradually before him towards the Pyrennees. After blowing up the fortifications at Burgos they made a stand at Vittoria,† under Joseph Buonaparte and

* In the chapel of St. Paul, in Westminster Abbey, is fixed a tablet with the following record:—

To the Memory of
Lieutenant-Colonel CHARLES MACLEOD,
who fell at the siege of Badajos,
aged 26 years,
This monument is erected by his brother officers.

In Lieutenant-colonel Macleod, of the 43d regiment, who was killed on the breach, his Majesty has sustained the loss of an officer, who was an ornament to his profession, and was capable of rendering the most important services to his country."—*Vide Marquis of Wellington's Despatch, 8th of April*, 1812.

† The battle of Vittoria cost the life of Colonel Cadogan, an officer, who has received a national memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral. It is inserted in one of the panels in the south-east ambulatory, and may be referred to as a model of monumental sculpture. Chantry, R. A. is the artist who claims its honours. When the Colonel was disabled from persisting in the battle, he desired his men to convey him to an adjoining eminence from which he could witness the issue of the contest. This is the natural circumstance judiciously seized upon by the artist for the commemoration of his subject;

Digitized by Google

Marshal Jourdan, and endeavoured to protect a large train of artillery and baggage, concentrated in that place. Picton, now promoted to the rank of a Lieutenant-general, and decorated with the grand cross of a Knight Commander of the Bath, again had to conduct the third division of the British army. Of the honours which crowned the easy but highly boasted victory that ensued, he earned his full share; the enemy offered no considerable resistance, the whole of their ordnance and stores was seized, and the usurped government of Spain, which was gathered around the person of Joseph Buonaparte, hurried away in confusion.*

After co-operating, with his usual fortune, in the actions at Orthes, and the heights of the Pyrennees, he signalized himself at

and he has executed it with unadulterated truth, and perspicuous ability. Here we enjoy a representation of the dying officer, borne along by his men, with his face still turned towards the enemy. One eagle and its bearer appear trodden under foot, while another is turning to fly, and to these two episodes is the allegory confined, which implies the defeat and rout of the French. Art is thus ingeniously made subservient to historical truth, and the performance demands undivided approbation.

* Concurrent with these enterprises was the siege of Bayonne, at which Major-general Hay was shot by a random ball during the night. The House of Commons decreed a monument to his memory, which was finished by H. Hopper, and stands on one side of the north door, entering into St. Paul's Cathedral. The deceased, habited in his regimentals, appears sinking into the arms of an athletic attendant; a sentinel stands by in an attitude of grief, and in the background a guard is seen marching its rounds. So far the design claims the praise of an historical event naturally worked out, but it is far from being a good piece of sculpture. The man upon whom Hay falls is naked: this is a most perverse license, and what is more provoking, he seems to be placed as he is, merely for the sake of a display of art, and the effect of attitude: there is not an expression about him to indicate concern for the melancholy charge he happens to support. As to the sentry on the other side, he is indeed a mere fixture.

The inscription is simple:—

Erected at the Public Expense, to the Memory of
Major-General Andrew Hay.
He was born in the County of Banff, in Scotland,
And fell on the 14th April, 1814,
Before the Fortress of Bayonne, in France,
In the 52d year of his Age, and the 34th of his Services,
Closing a Military Life, marked by
Zeal, prompt Decision, and signal Intrepidity.

Digitized by Google

the battle of Toulouse, by one of those daring movements which so strongly marked his military character. He drove the enemy before him with a rapidity unemulated by his brother leaders; and after compelling them to retire behind a fortified bridge, which afforded a passage over a canal, that ran into the Garonne, made an intrepid movement to carry even this position. The effort was undertaken at fearful odds, and admirably sustained; but it failed of success, and led to a heavy slaughter of his division. Nevertheless, a palpable victory was secured on this as well as on every other side.

The battle of Waterloo, which was the consummation of a series of wars protracted and brilliant beyond example, brought the fame of Picton to its climax. Upon that momentous occasion he commanded the fifth division of the allied army, and was stationed at that hottest point of action, the memorable farm-house of Quatre-Bras. Once established in his post, no resources availed, though many were sought, to dislodge him definitively from it: fresh reinforcements continually poured in upon him; repeated assaults were made upon his lines by large bodies of infantry and cavalry, supported by an immense power of artillery; but every attempt was repulsed with the steadiest courage. At last, the French cavalry formed themselves in considerable force, and dashed forward against his infantry, with a terrible shock. The conjuncture was most imminent; but Picton was not without an imposing alternative. He drew his men into compact order, and assumed the desperate resolution of charging bayonets against the advancing cavalry. Such a movement was without a precedent; he gallantly led it in person, and struck a panic amongst the enemy, which completed their overthrow. In this moment of uncommon success he was killed. Had he survived the issue, the highest honours would have crowned his name; but even if his death had not been instantaneous, and we may imagine him to have lingered for awhile before he expired in the possession of his faculties, we can hardly suppose that he would have repined over so noble a termination of a brilliant career. When his body was examined, it was discovered that he had been wounded by a ball on the 16th, but modestly concealed the fact, and persevered in active duty, though the injury was severe. His remains were landed at Deal, during the course of

Digitized by Google

the month, with state honours; and after being escorted with military honours, from Canterbury to London, were deposited in the burial ground, on the Uxbridge road, belonging to the parish of St. George, Hanover-square, on the 25th of July. The inscription on the coffin fixed his age at 57.

Of the many celebrated officers who figured under the Duke of Wellington throughout the Peninsular war, no second individual acquired so high a reputation as did Lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton. Amongst his military associates he was distinguished as the pupil of Abercrombie, and Wellington's *right-hand*: his, too, was commonly called the *fighting* division. In his professional capacity he was remarkable for confident ability, severe discipline, imperturbable resolution, and a perfect knowledge and accurate skill in tactics. In these qualities it has been affirmed, by competent judges, that he may have been equalled, but was never eclipsed. There was a stern principle of virtue instinctive in his character, which made the most familiar actions of his life imposing. Inflexible in his opinions, and consistent in his actions, he was untaught to flatter; and neither concealed a truth, nor glossed over a principle, for the sake of interest or promotion. He has been pronounced the pure pattern of a soldier's honour; and on these accounts it seems not unfoundedly to have been observed, that, though his services were never underrated, they were never adequately rewarded. Of the exemplary manner in which he discharged the duties of social life, of his kindness, benevolence, and generosity, accounts the most engaging are preserved. The profits realized by his employments in the West Indies, he laid out on an estate in Trinidad; and soon after, the death of a rich uncle enabled him to purchase another property in Wales: but he distributed the greater portion of his income amongst his relations, and subsisted himself upon little more than his pay. When the inquiry was first instituted into his Trinidad governorship, the inhabitants of the island held a meeting, and subscribed a sum of 5000*l.* which they resolved to present to him, in testimony of their gratitude for the benefits they enjoyed under his administration. At first he showed great repugnance to receive the money; but soon after, a fire breaking out on the island, he paid back the whole sum into a fund, which was opened for the relief of the sufferers.

Digitized by Google

RIGHT HON. WILLIAM PITT, M. P.

THE monument voted to the memory of this superior statesman, by the House of Commons, surmounts the arch over the great eastern door of Westminster Abbey. It is the work of Westmacott, an artist who has been much flattered for the pictorial grace with which he composes his designs, and the fineness to which he reduces his statues. For these merits the performance now regarded stands conspicuous; but there is, unfortunately, a weighty distinction to be drawn between the taste with which a subject is arranged, and the sense of which it is constituted: in this respect Mr. Pitt's monument is egregiously inconsistent. His figure is here presented, habited in the robes appropriated to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and in the act of addressing the House; one personification—History, a female catching his portrait, is seated on one side; and another of Anarchy, a man, naked, and bound with chains, completes the group. To descant upon the utter offensiveness of thus confounding fact and fiction, were most superfluous; and to approve the ability of the hand, while condemning the judgment of the head, were equally censurable.

William Pitt, the second son, and fourth child of the first Earl of Chatham, was born on the 25th of May, 1759. Of his early years much has been written, but little ascertained. That he should have soon displayed his talents, and that he should have engaged the particular attention of his father, who was the more open to such a care, as he disencumbered himself almost of all official duties after the accession of George the III. to the crown, are circumstances so natural, that few readers can desire any elaborate disquisition upon them. Of the matter, which, in such a case, is the more likely to provoke inquiry, there is no supply: the sys-

Digitized by Google

tem upon which his mind was trained, the bias with which he seized information, the comparative influence of different branches of knowledge upon his mind, and the gradual accomplishment of his education, under a master of such extraordinary powers, have never been distinguished, or if distinguished, never described. We are only informed, that he acquired the Greek and Latin languages with peculiar facility, and pursued his mathematical studies, with evident taste and precision. In oratory alone he seems to have had the sole benefit of his father's experience, who is represented to have accustomed him to converse without restraint, and to declaim before him extemporaneously from the elevation of a parlour chair. He was first put under a private preceptor, the Rev. Dr. Wilson, subsequently a canon of Windsor; and was from his care removed to Pembroke College, Cambridge; where, in 1772, Dr. Prettyman, who now bears the name of Toulmine, and fills the see of Lincoln, became his tutor. After proceeding in due course Bachelor and Master of Arts, degrees for which he spiritedly refused to avail himself of the privileges attached by the University to the son of a peer; he entered himself a student-at-law of Lincoln's Inn, and was called to the bar in 1780. Before this period, he had the misfortune to lament the loss of his gifted father, who, dying in 1778, left the young statesman to work a narrow fortune in his nineteenth year.

In his profession he does not appear to have sought, and certainly did not obtain, much practice. He is known to have had only a few briefs, with one of which, however, he displayed an ability, that was rewarded by some compliments from Earl Mansfield, before whom it was argued. For a political career his father had destined him, prophesying, that he was sure to obtain distinction as a parliamentary leader, and to the honours of that rank he aspired, almost as soon as he became of age. The University of Cambridge was the first corporate body he endeavoured to represent, but he was rejected by the electors with contempt. Soon after, however, the Duke of Richmond prevailed upon Sir James Lowther to return him for one of his boroughs; and accordingly he was introduced into the House of Commons, under the patronage of that baronet, as one of the members for Appleby, in January, 1781.

Digitized by Google

Once established as a public character, he lost no time in bringing forward his claims to distinction. He pronounced his maiden speech in support of Mr. Burke's bill for a reformation of the civil list, revenue, &c. and, though delivered with some embarrassment, it excited considerable attention, and no common praise. Without attaching himself particularly to any party, he opposed Lord North's administration, and the American war; and, consequently, advocated, during the course of the session, many of those motions by which Mr. Fox and his friends prepared a way to their assumption of the reins of government.

This object was accomplished in 1782, and young Pitt was offered, but declined an official place. He did not, however, become, in any respect, an enemy to the new ministers; on the contrary, concurring with them in the liberal principles upon which they professed to act, he bore public testimony to their talents and their virtues, and gave a hearty vote in favour of the several important measures by which they signalized a brief interval of power. A general feeling of satisfaction then pervaded the nation, the strongest hopes of prosperity were entertained, and Mr. Pitt judiciously availed himself of a conjuncture so auspicious for the purpose of recommending a most popular remedy for the deep injuries which it was universally admitted the constitution of the country had received. He took up the essential question of Parliamentary reform, and, on the 7th of May, concluded a speech of great force, but of great temperance also, of sound views, and of discreet suggestions, by moving "for a committee to enquire into the state of the representation in Parliament, and to report to the House their observations thereupon." The effort was defeated at the onset, but it was hailed by the public with approbation, and tended, in a striking manner, to give importance to the character of the young statesman.

Long before the year closed, Mr. Fox, and his friends, resigned their situations, in consequence of the sudden death of Lord Rockingham, and the Earl of Shelburne was deputed by the King to compose a fresh ministry. Pitt was one of the first to whom application was made, and as he had the independence to provide, that, if employed at all, he should be employed in no secondary rank, he was gazetted Chancellor of the Exchequer in July, 1782. It thus became his boast to assume the

Digitized by Google

highest functions in the state upon the completion of his three and twentieth year. His triumph, however, was destined to be as short as the one enjoyed by the party to which he succeeded. Mr. Fox strangely united his influence with Lord North, and thus secured an irresistible majority in Parliament. The session opened on the 5th of December, and the cessation of hostilities with America was made the question of contest between the two sides of the House. But it was not to be concealed, that the difference was one more of men than of measures, and, accordingly, much personality was resorted to by the adverse members, in which the youth and inexperience of the young Chancellor of the Exchequer formed a prominent feature. The array before him was most powerful, but that he met the torrent with a manly spirit and ample strength cannot be denied. In one only instance did he stoop from the confidence of superiority, and that was in reference to Mr. Sheridan, of whom he said, "that no man admired more than he did, the abilities of that right honourable gentleman, the elegant sallies of his thought, the gay effusions of his fancy, his dramatic turns, and his epigrammatic points: and if they were reserved for their proper stage, they would no doubt receive, what the right honourable gentleman's abilities did always receive—the plaudits of the audience; and it would be his fortune

Sui plausu guadere theatri.

But this was not the proper scene for the exhibition of these elegancies, and he must, therefore, beg leave to call the attention of the house to the serious consideration of the very important question before them."

This was a good sally, but it was directed against a formidable antagonist; and readily retorted; for Sheridan took occasion to explain, "that on the particular sort of personality which the right honourable gentleman had thought proper to make use of, he need not offer any comment—the taste, the gentlemanly point of it must be obvious to the house. But," he added, "let me assure the right honourable gentleman that I do now, and will at any time he chooses to repeat this sort of allusion, meet him with the most sincere good humour. Nay, I will say more—flattered by his panegyric upon my talents, if ever again I en-

Digitized by Google

gage in the compositions he alludes to, I may be tempted to an act of presumption—to attempt an improvement on one of Ben Jonson's best characters—the character of the Angry Boy in the Alchymist."

And here, as a digression has been made, it may not prove inopportune to continue the custom already observed in the progress of these pages, and relieve the dryness of the narration by specimens of that oratory for which the subject of the sketch acquired celebrity. In this instance the quotation is made by accident, but it cannot fail to supply an interesting proof of Mr. Pitt's abilities; for, though delivered in the first act of his career, it was inspired by a critical emergency, and addressed to a master of the art. The following speech was pronounced on the 21st of February, 1783, in reply to Mr. Fox, who pressed a motion, made by Lord John Cavendish, condemnatory of the peace and the ministry, in a long and nervous harangue:—

"Sir, revering, as I do, the great abilities of the honourable gentleman who spoke last, I lament, in common with the house, when those abilities are misemployed, as on the present question, to inflame the imagination, and mislead the judgment. I am told, Sir, he does not envy me the triumph of my situation on this day: a sort of language which becomes the candour of that right honourable gentleman as ill as his present principles. The triumph of party, Sir, with which this self-appointed minister seems highly elate, shall never seduce me to any inconsistency which the busiest suspicions shall presume to glance at. I will never engage in political enmities without a public cause; I will never forego such enmities without the public approbation; nor will I *be questioned and cast off in the face of this house by one virtuous and dissatisfied friend.** These, Sir, the sober and durable triumphs of reason over the weak and profligate inconsistencies of party violence—these, Sir, the steady triumphs of virtue over success itself, shall be mine, not only in my present situation, but through every future condition of my life: triumphs

* Alluding to Sir Cecil Wray, Mr. Powis, &c. who abandoned Mr. Fox after the coalition.

Digitized by Google

which no length of time shall diminish, which no change of principles shall ever sully.

"The fatal consequences of Tuesday's vote, which I then deprecated and foretold, is already manifest in this house; and it has been thought on all sides requisite to give a new stability to the peace, which that vote has already shaken. But the proof which the present motion is about to establish—that we are *determined not to abide by this peace*—is a declaration that we have examined terms, and have found them *inadequate*. Still less inconsistent is this extraordinary motion with the language of Tuesday. It was then urged that no sufficient time had been allowed to us to determine on the articles before us; and, in the short space of two days, we are ready to pass a vote of censure on what we declare we have not had leisure to discuss. This, Sir, is the first monstrous production of that strange alliance, which threatens once more to plunge this devoted country into all the horrors of another war.

"It is not, Sir, an exception to any single article, if well-founded exceptions should really exist, that ought to determine the merits of this treaty. Private interests have their respective advocates, and subjects may be easily found for partial complaints; but private interest must bend to public safety. What these complaints may prove is yet unknown; for, whilst the honourable gentleman alone is describing with so much confidence the distress and dissatisfaction of trade, she herself is approaching the throne with effusions of gratitude and affection. The honourable gentleman has fairly stated the terms by which the merits of the peace are to be decided—the relative strength and resources of *the respective powers at war*. I will immediately meet him on this issue.

"I shall begin, Sir, with a most important subject—the state of the British Navy; and shall refer myself for proofs of what I assert to the papers now lying on your table. This appeal, Sir, to solid and authentic documents, will appear the more just and necessary, when I acquaint the house, that a noble lord (Keppel), from whom the honourable gentleman professes to receive his naval information, has varied in his statement to the cabinet, no less than twenty sail of the line.

"We are informed, Sir, from the papers before us, that the

Digitized by Google

British force amounted nearly to one hundred sail of the line, many of which had been long and actively employed on foreign stations. With diligent exertions, six new ships would have been added to the catalogue in March. The force of France and Spain amounted to nearly one hundred and forty sail of the line, sixty of which were lying in Cadiz harbour, stored and victualled for immediate service. Twelve ships of the line, including one built by the United States, had quitted Boston harbour, under Vaudrueil, in a state of perfect repair. An immense land armament was collected at St. Domingo; their several forces were united in one object, and that object was the reduction of Jamaica. Who, Sir, can suppose with serious confidence, that Island could long have resisted a regular attack supported by 72 sail of the line. Admiral Pigot, after his reinforcement from Europe, would have commanded a fleet of only 46 sail of the line; and it has long been acknowledged in this house, *that a defensive war was terminated in certain ruin.* Would Admiral Pigot have undertaken at this time offensive operations against the islands of the enemy?—those islands upon which Lord Rodney, when flushed with victory, could not venture to attempt an impression? Would Admiral Pigot, Sir, have regained by arms what the ministers have recovered by treaty? Could he, in the sight of a superior fleet, have captured Grenada, Dominique, St. Kitts, Nevis, Monserrat? or might we not too reasonably apprehend the campaign of the West Indies would have closed with the loss of Jamaica itself, the remnant of our possessions in that part of the globe.

"Let us next consider our situation in the East. A mere defensive resistance, however glorious, had entitled Sir Edward Hughes to the thanks of this house; but his success, if it may be termed a victory, had not prevented the enemy from landing a greater European force than we actually possess in India, who, at this instant, are in conjunction with Hyder, subduing and desolating the Carnatic.

"The prospect is by no means brightened when we look forward to the probable operations in the channel, and in the Northern seas, during the course of the ensuing summer. Thirteen new sail of the line would have at that time been added to the fleet of France; and the Dutch force, as it has been actually stated by a

Digitized by Google

great naval officer (Commodore Keith Stuart) in this debate, would have amounted to 25 sail of the line. What accession the Spanish force would have received is not sufficiently known. It is enough for me to state, that the fleets of the Bourbons, and of Holland, would have doubled ours in our own seas. Should we have seized the intervals of their cruises, and poorly parade the channel for a few weeks, to tarnish again by flight the glories of the last campaign? or should we have dared to risk the existence of the kingdom itself, by engaging against such fearful odds?

"What were the feelings of every one who hears me (what were my own feelings it is impossible to describe), when that great man, Lord Howe, set sail with our only fleet, inferior to the enemy, and under the probability of an engagement on their own coast? My apprehensions, Sir, on this occasion were mixed with hope; I knew the superiority of British skill and courage might outweigh the inequality of numbers. But, Sir, in another quarter, and at the same instant of time, my apprehensions were unmixed with a ray of comfort. The Baltic fleet, almost as valuable as Gibraltar itself, for it contained all the materials of future war, was on its way to England, and twelve sail of the line had been sent out from the ports of Holland to intercept it; Gibraltar was relieved by a skill and courage that baffled superior numbers; and the Baltic fleet was, I know not how, miraculously preserved. One power, indeed, the honourable gentleman had omitted in *his* detail:—but the *Dutch*, Sir, had not been disarmed by the humiliating language of that gentleman's ministry: they were warmed into more active exertions, and were just beginning to feel their own strength; they were not only about to defend themselves with effect, but to lend ten sail to the fleets of France and Spain. Here, Sir, let us pause for a moment of serious and solemn consideration.

"Should the ministers have persevered from day to day to throw the desperate die, whose successes had won us only a barren though glorious safety; and whose failure, in a single cast, would sink us into hopeless ruin? However fondly the ideas of national expectation had diffused themselves amongst the people, the ministers, Sir, could entertain no rational hopes. Those columns of our strength, which many honourable gentlemen had raised with so much fancy, and decorated with so much

Digitized by Google

invention, the ministers had surveyed with sober reason. I am sorry to say, we discovered the fabric of our naval superiority to be visionary and baseless.

"I shall next, with submission to the right honourable gentleman who presides in that department state, in a few words, the situation of our army. It is notorious to every gentleman who hears me, that new levies could scarcely be torn, on any terms, from this depopulated country. It is known to professional gentlemen, how great is the difference between the nominal and effective state of the service; and, astonishing as it may appear, after a careful enquiry, three thousand men were the utmost force that could have been safely sent from this country on any offensive duty. But I am told, Sir, the troops from New York would have supplied us with a force equal to the demands of every intended expedition. The foreign troops in that garrison we had no power to embark on any other than American service; and, in contradiction to the honourable gentleman who spoke last, and to that noble Lord whose language he affects to speak in this house, no transports had been prepared, or could have been assembled, for their embarkation. Where, Sir, should they have directed their course, when they were at length embarked, but into the hazard of an enemy's fleet, which would have cruized with undisputed superiority in every part of the western world?

"No pressure of public accusation, nor heat of innocence in its own defence, shall ever tempt me to disclose a single circumstance which may tend to humiliate my country. What I am about to say, will betray no secret of state; it is known, for it is felt throughout the nation. There remains at this moment, exclusive of the annual services, an unfunded debt of thirty millions. Taxes, Sir, the most flattering, have been tried; and, instead of revenue from themselves, have frequently produced a failure in others, with which they have been found to sympathise. But here, Sir, I am told by the honourable gentleman who spoke last, *other nations would have felt an equal distress.* Good God! to what a consequence does this honourable gentleman lead us! Should I, Sir, have dared to urge a continuance of the war, which endangered the bankruptcy of public faith—a bankruptcy which would have almost dissolved the bonds of government, and involved the state in the confusion of a general ruin—should I

Digitized by Google

have ventured to do this, because *one of the adverse powers* MIGHT *have experienced an equal distress?*

"The honourable gentleman who spoke last, has amused the house with various statements on the different principles of 'uti possedetis,' and restitution. The principle of those statements is as false as it is unexpected from him. Did his great naval friend acquaint him with the respective values of Dominique and St. Lucia?—that Lord, who, in his Majesty's counsels, had advised, and perhaps wisely, a preference of the former. The value of Dominique, Sir, was better known to our enemies, and the immense sums employed by them in fortifying that island, prove as well its present value, as their desire to retain it. That honourable gentleman has, on all occasions, spoken with approbation of the last peace. Was St. Lucia left in our hands by that peace, the terms of which we ourselves prescribed? or was St. Lucia really so impregnable as to endanger all our possessions at the commencement of the present war?

"It would be needless for me to remind the honourable gentleman who spoke last, of any declaration he had made in a preceding session: professions from *him* so antiquated and obsolete would have but little weight in this house. But I will venture to require consistency for a single week; and shall only remind him of his declaration in Monday's debate—that this peace was preferable to a continuance of the war! Will he then criminate his Majesty's ministers by the present motion, for preferring what he would have preferred; or, how will he presume to prove that, if better terms could have been obtained, it was less their interest than their duty to have obtained them?

"Was this peace, Sir, concluded with the same indecent levity that the honourable gentlemen would proceed to its condemnation? Many days and nights were laboriously employed by his Majesty's ministers in such extensive negociations; many doubts were well weighed and removed; and weeks and months of solemn discussion gave birth to that peace, which we are required to destroy without examination;—that peace, the positive ultimatum of France, and to which, I solemnly assure the public, there was no other alternative but a continuation of the war.

"Could the ministers thus, surrounded with scenes of ruin, affect to dictate the terms of peace? And are these articles seri-

Digitized by Google

ously compared with the Peace of Paris? There was indeed a time when Great Britain might have met her enemies on other conditions. And if an imagination, warmed with the power and glory of this country, could have directed any member of his Majesty's councils from a painful inspection of the truth, I might, I hope, without presumption, have been entitled to that indulgence. I feel, Sir, at this instant, how much I had been animated in my childhood by a recital of England's victories:—I was taught, Sir, by one whose memory I shall ever revere, that at the close of a war, far different indeed from this, she had dictated the terms of peace to submissive nations. This, in which I place something more than common interest, was the memorable era of England's glory. But that era is past: she is under the awful and mortifying necessity of employing a language that corresponds with her true condition. The visions of her power and pre-eminence are passed away.

"*We have acknowledged American Independence*—that, Sir, was a needless form: the incapacity of the noble Lord who conducted our affairs; the events of war, and even a voice of this house, had already granted what it was impossible to withhold.

"*We have ceded Florida*—we have obtained Providence and the Bahama islands.

We have ceded an extent of fishery on the coast of Newfoundland—we have established an exclusive right to the most valuable banks.

"*We have restored St. Lucia, and given up Tobago*—we have regained Grenada, Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis, and Monserrat; and we have rescued Jamaica from her impending danger. In Africa we have ceded Goree, the grave of our countrymen; and we possess Senegambia, the best and most healthy settlement.

"*In Europe we relinquished Minorca*, kept up at an immense and useless expense in peace, and never tenable in war.

"*We have likewise permitted his most Christian Majesty to repair his harbour of Dunkirk*—the humiliating clause for its destruction was inserted, Sir, after other wars than the past. But the immense expense attending its repairs will still render this indulgence useless: add to this, that Dunkirk was first an object of our jealousy, when ships were constructed far inferior to their present draught. That harbour, at the commencement of the

Digitized by Google

war, admitted ships of a single deck; no act or expense will enable it to receive a fleet of the line.

"In the East Indies, where alone we had power to obtain this peace, we have restored what was useless to ourselves, and scarcely tenable in a continuance of the war.

"*We have abandoned the unhappy royalists to their implacable enemies.*—Little, Sir, are those unhappy men befriended by such a language in this house; nor shall we give much assistance to their cause, or add stability to the reciprocal confidence of the two states, if we already impute to Congress a violence and injustice, which decency forbids us to suspect. Would a continuation of the war have been justified on the single principle of assisting these unfortunate men, or would a continuation of the war, if so justified, have procured for them a more certain indemnity? Their hopes must have been rendered desperate indeed by the additional distresses of Britain—those hopes which are now revived by the timely aid of peace and reconciliation.

"These are the ruinous conditions to which this country engaged with four powerful states; and, exhausted in all its resources, thought fit to subscribe for the dissolution of that alliance, and the immediate enjoyment of peace. Let us examine what is left, with a manly and determined courage; let us strengthen ourselves against inveterate enemies, and reconciliate our ancient friends. The misfortunes of individuals and of kingdoms, that are laid open and examined with true wisdom, are more than half redressed; and to this great object should be directed all the virtues and abilities of this house. Let us feel our calamities—let us bear them too like men.

"But, Sir, I fear I have too long engaged your attention to no real purpose, and that the public safety is this day risked without a blush by the malice and disappointment of a faction. The honourable gentleman who spoke last has declared, with that sort of consistency which marks his conduct, because he is prevented from prosecuting the Noble Lord (North) to the satisfaction of public justice, he will heartily embrace him as a friend.' So readily does he reconcile extremes, and love the man whom he wished to prosecute! With the same spirit, Sir, I suppose he will cherish the peace too—*because he abhors it.*

"But I will not hesitate to surmise, from the obvious com-

Digitized by Google

plexion of this night's debate, that it originates rather in an inclination to force the Earl of Shelburne from the treasury, than in any real conviction that ministers deserve the censure, for the concessions they have made: concessions, which, from the facts I have enumerated, and the reasonings I have stated as arising from these facts, are the obvious result of an absolute necessity, and imputable not so much to those of whom the present cabinet is composed, as to the cabinet of which the noble lord in the blue ribbon was a member. The noble earl, like every other person eminent for ability, and acting in the first department of a great state, is undoubtedly an object of envy to some as well as admiration to others. The obloquy to which his capacity and situation have raised him, has been created and circulated with equal meanness and address: but his merits are as much above my panegyric as the arts to which he owes his defamation are beneath my attention. When stripped of his power and emoluments he once more descends to private life, without the invidious appendages of place, men will see him through a different medium, and perceive in him qualities which richly entitle him to their esteem. That official superiority which at present irritates their feelings, and that capacity of conferring good offices on those he prefers, which all men are fond of possessing, will not then be any obstacle to their making an impartial estimate of his character. But, notwithstanding a sincere predilection of this nobleman, whom I am bound by every tie to treat with sentiments of deference and regard, I am far from wishing him retained in power against the public approbation; and if his removal can be innocently effected, if he can be compelled to resign without entailing all those mischiefs which seem to be involved in the resolution now moved, great as his zeal is for his country, powerful as his abilities are, and earnest and assiduous as his endeavours have been to rescue the British empire from the difficulties that oppress her; I am persuaded he will retire, firm in the dignity of his own mind, conscious of having contributed to the public advantage; and, if not attended with the fulsome plaudits of a mob, possessed of that substantial and permanent satisfaction which arises from the habitual approbation of an upright mind. I know him well; and dismiss him from the confidence of his sovereign and the business of the state when you please, to this

Digitized by Google

transcendent consolation he has a title which no accident can invalidate or affect—it is the reward of doing well, by acting an honest and honourable part. By the difficulties he encountered on accepting the reins of government, by the reduced circumstances in which he found the state of the nation, and by the perpetual turbulence of those who thought his elevation effected at their expense, he has certainly earned it dearly; and with such a solid understanding, and so much goodness of heart as stamp his character, he is in no danger of losing it. Nothing can be a stronger proof that his enemies are eager to traduce, than the frivolous grounds on which they affect to accuse him. An action which reflects a lustre on his attention to the claims of merit, has yet been improved into a fault in his conduct. A right honourable gentleman (Col. Barré) who had exhausted his strength in the service of the state, and to whose years and infirmities his absence from parliament can only be attributed, owes to the friendship and interference of the noble earl a pension, which, however adequate to all his necessities and conveniences in the evening of life, is no extraordinary compensation for the public spirit which has always marked his parliamentary conduct. Surely the virtues and abilities of this veteran soldier and respectable senator, deserved some acknowledgment from that community in which they have been so often and so manfully exerted. Surely his age entitled him to a little repose in the lap of that public to whose welfare his youth had been dedicated. Surely that principle of humanity which stimulates those in power to commiserate in this manner the situation of neglected merit, possesses a nobleness, a generosity, a benevolence, which, instead of incurring the censure of any, ought to command the veneration and praises of all.

"I repeat then, Sir, it is not this treaty; it is the Earl of Shelburne alone whom the movers of this question are desirous to wound. This is the object which has raised this storm of faction; this is the aim of the unnatural coalition to which I have alluded. If, however, the baneful alliance is not yet formed; if this ill-fated marriage is not yet solemnized, I know a just and lawful impediment, and *I here forbid the bans.*

"My own share in the censure pointed by the motion before the House against his Majesty's ministers, I will bear with forti-

Digitized by Google

tude; because, my own heart tells me, I have not acted wrong. To this monitor, who never did, and who, I trust, never will deceive me, I will confidently repair, as to an adequate asylum, from all the clamour which interested faction can raise. As I was not very eager to come in, I shall have no great reluctance to go out, whenever the public are disposed to dismiss me from their service. It has been the great object of my short official existence, to do the duties of my station with all the ability and address in my power, and with a fidelity and honour, which should bear me up, and give me confidence under every possible contingency and disappointment. I can say, with sincerity, I never had a wish which did not terminate in the dearest interests of the nation. I will, at the same time, imitate the honourable gentleman's candour, and confess, that I, too, have my ambition. High station and great influence are desirable objects to most men, and objects which I am not ashamed to pursue; which I am even solicitous to possess, whenever they can be acquired with honour, and retained with dignity. On these respectable conditions I am not less ambitious to be great and powerful, than it is natural for a young man with such brilliant examples before him, to be. But even these objects I am not beneath relinquishing, the moment my duty to my country, my character, and friends, renders such a sacrifice indispensable. Then I hope to retire, not disappointed, but triumphant; triumphant in the conviction that my talents, humble as they are, have been earnestly, zealously, and strenuously employed, to the best of my apprehension, in promoting the truest welfare of my country; and that, however I may stand accused of weakness of understanding, or error of judgment, nothing can be imputed to my official capacity which bears the most distant connexion with an interested, a corrupt, or a dishonest intention. But it is not any part of my plan, when the time shall come that I quit my station, to threaten the repose of my country, and erect, like the honourable gentleman, a fortress and a refuge for disappointed ambition. The self-created and self-appointed successors to the present administration have asserted, with much confidence, that this is likely to be the case. I can assure them, however, when they come from that side of the house to this, I will, for one, most readily and cordially accept the exchange. The only desire I should indulge

Digitized by Google

and cherish on the subject is, that the service of the public may be ably, disinterestedly, and faithfully performed. To those who feel for their country, as I wish to do, and will strive to do, it matters little who are out or in; but it matters much that her affairs be conducted with wisdom, with firmness, with dignity, and credit. Those entrusted to my care I will resign, let me hope, into hands much better qualified to do them justice than mine. But I will not mimic the parade of the right honourable gentleman, in avowing an indiscriminate opposition to whoever may be appointed to succeed. I will march out with no warlike, no hostile, no menacing protestations; but hoping the new administration will have no other object in view, than the real and substantial welfare of the community at large: that they will bring with them into office those truly public and patriotic principles, which they formerly held, but which they abandoned in opposition: that they will save the state, and promote the great purposes of general good, with as much steadiness, integrity, and solid advantage, as I am confident it must one day appear the Earl of Shelburne and his colleagues have done; I promise them before hand, my uniform and best support upon every occasion where I can honestly and conscientiously assist them.

"In short, Sir, whatever appears dishonourable or inadequate in the peace on your table is strictly chargeable to the noble lord in the blue ribbon, whose profusion of the public money, whose notorious temerity and obstinacy in prosecuting the war, which originated in his pernicious and oppressive policy, and whose utter incapacity to fill the station he occupied, rendered a peace of any description indispensable to the preservation of the state. The small part which fell to my share in that ignominious transaction, was divided with a set of men, whom the dispassionate public must, on reflection, unite to honour. Unused as I am to the factions and jarring clamours of this day's debate, I look up to the independent part of the house, and to the public at large, if not for that impartial approbation which my conduct deserves, at least for that acquittal from blame to which my innocence entitles me. I have ever been most anxious to do my utmost for the interests of my country; it has been my sole concern to act an honest and upright part; and I am disposed to think every instance of my official department will bear a fair and honourable

Digitized by Google

construction. With these intentions I ventured forward on the public attention, and can appeal with some degree of confidence to both sides of the house for the consistency of my political conduct. My earliest impressions were in favour of the noblest and most disinterested modes of serving the public: these impressions are still dear, and will, I hope, remain ever dear in my heart: I will cherish them as a legacy, infinitely more valuable than the greatest inheritance. On these principles alone I came into Parliament, and into place; and I now take the whole house to witness that I have never been under the necessity of contradicting one public declaration I have ever made.

"I am, notwithstanding, at the disposal of this house, and with their decision, whatever it may be, I will cheerfully comply. It is impossible to deprive me of those feelings which must always result from the sincerity of my best endeavours to fulfil, with integrity, every official engagement. You may take from me, Sir, the privileges and emoluments of place, but you cannot, and you shall not, take from me those habitual and warm regards for the prosperity of Great Britain, which constitute the honour, the happiness, the pride of my life; and which, I trust, death alone can extinguish. And with this consolation, the loss of power, Sir, and the loss of fortune, though I affect not to despise them, I hope I shall soon be able to forget:—

Laudo manentem; si celeres quatit
Pennas, resigno quæ dedit——
————————probamque.
Pauperiem sine dote quæro."

This is a very long, but a most valuable extract: valuable for its own beauties, and valuable for the illustration it reflects over this sketch. No analysis, however minute, could create an equal impression; and no description, however finished, afford the same satisfaction. At an early, but a vigorous period, it exhibits the full capacity of his mind, and the ample extent of his acquirements; proves the merit of his principles, the spirit of his character, and the fairness of his conduct; and displays almost every feature which distinguished the style of his eloquence. Here, therefore,

Digitized by Google

while the proof is still fresh, it may be as well to enter upon an estimate of his qualifications as a speaker. That these were of the first order, is admitted on all sides, for they were universally admired: he had a good voice, and calm appropriate enunciation; but gave no care to action, or to attitude. His words flowed with a most engaging ease; his periods were rounded with an imposing art; he chose his expressions with felicity, always used a solid line of argument, and adopted a fine logical arrangement of his matter. Added to all this, his address was most dexterous: upon a complicated subject no one knew better how to single out and enforce the points that most suited, or to evade those others that least answered his purposes. His tone was moderate, his manner persuasive, and the tenor of his remarks invariably marked by pure sensibleness and highly energetic thoughts. He had not the majestic strength of his father, who seemed to triumph rather by lifting himself up above his subject and his adversary, than by condescending to carry on an equal contest with him; nor had he the lusty earnestness of Fox, who entered the lists of discussion with a generous feeling, and sought to conquer, by laying aside all art and stratagem, and aspired to overthrow his enemy upon his greatest vantage ground; and yet, perhaps he was a more complete orator than either the one of these great men, or the other. Burke is removed out of the parallel of a comparison by the universality of his accomplishments; Grattan, ever unique and original, surpassed him with clear distinction; and Sheridan also exceeded him in wit and brilliancy. Still Mr. Pitt's eloquence was excellently adapted to the nature of his wants: equally discreet and determined, as the leader of a state majority, he oftener thought it prudent to confirm the reasonableness of government, than to dissipate the liberality of opposition, and thus acquired a peculiar tact, rather in upsetting any effect they might chance to make upon his own friends, than in contesting their questions with the same powers by which alone they were enabled to succeed. Hence, too, the nobler attributes, and nicer beauties of the art, are rarely discovered in his speeches: he appears to possess no passion, and but little heart; his imagination seldom expands, and he abounds not at all with standard propositions, profound discoveries, or an enlarged policy. Sarcasm and irony were almost the only auxiliaries to

Digitized by Google

which he resorted; but of them his use was fine, and his power deep.

Being dislodged from his first seat of office, after an immature administration of eight months, he conducted himself with patriotic decency. Embittered by no apparent disappointment, and animated by no resentment, he revived his motion for a parliamentary reform, in the session of 1783, with all his natural ability; and not only seconded, but outstepped the coalition ministry, in their enactments for a reduction of the taxes, and an abrogation of useless places, with the most disinterested propriety. Ere long, however, the bold policy of Mr. Fox's India Bill startled him into vigorous opposition, and after a month's combat on this subject, he was reinstated in his rank, at the head of the Exchequer and Treasury, on the 17th of September. The principle of Mr. Fox's bill has already been noticed in the life of that statesman, and the conciliative emendations which Mr. Pitt now introduced upon it may be shortly distinguished. He left the commerce of the East India Company independent, he gave them a primitive patronage of civil and military offices, but insisted, that once appointed, their servants should be promoted by seniority; he left them the choice of a governor-general, but gave the nomination of a commander-in-chief to the crown; and retained Mr. Fox's idea of a Board of Control, and improved Judicature, with this difference, that the government, and not either parliament or the company, obtained the privilege of composing the one institution or the other.

This knotty measure once firmly urged through a fierce opposition, he prosecuted his administration with a decided majority for the term of eighteen years. The history of such a period—one, too, more than ordinarily consequential, cannot be adequately written in a confined space; but the pre-eminent circumstances which characterize it may be selected and described. After triumphantly breaking up the coalition by a new election in 1784, he became a representative for the University of Cambridge—that Cambridge too, which had spurned him with insult only a year before, but now received him with open arms. He was honoured with the freedom of London, presented to him in a flattering address from the Chamberlain Wilks, and entertained with popular splendour in the city. A

Digitized by Google

reputation so grateful was not to be rashly hazarded, and, accordingly, he preserved an air of consistency, by making a few motions in favour of parliamentary reform, but failed to reap any benefit, because he left that vital question open, as the phrase is, to the sense of the house, which, if sincerely dictated, ought to have been earnestly enforced by all the influence of office. But the praise which he forfeited in one way he acquired in another; he contracted a favourable treaty of commerce with France, and paid a very meritorious attention to the finances of the country. Two projects for a war with Russia and Spain, which he next entertained, seemed likely to endanger his prosperity; but his grounds were futile, and he was preserved from the ordeal by the sense of the country at large, guided by the discretion of Mr. Fox, and his coadjutors. His disagreement with Russia was provoked by an unimportant dispute between that power and Turkey, respecting the occupation of Oczacow, while the pelt-ry of Nootka Sound instigated him to a quarrel with Spain for those fatal possessions—the Falkland Islands. Recovering from such injudicious propensities, he retrieved his character by amicable treaties, and was thus enabled to secure a powerful support for his subsequent contest with revolutionary France. Though the opposition which he encountered throughout this undertaking was violent, it is nevertheless demonstrable that he was far from acting with precipitation, or without reason. The policy of the French concerning the opening of the Scheldt interfered directly with our commercial interests; and the fatuity of their decrees in favour of universal fraternity was nationally offensive and constructively hostile. The debatable point, therefore, was, whether such proceedings justified a war. Mr. Pitt thought they did, and he must be admitted to have elucidated his opinion with signal talents. The valuable conquests, and bright victories which he obtained in the issue, reconciled the majority of the nation to his views; his adversaries continued vainly to deplore the waste of money and loss of blood with which they were bought; but their alternative was not tried; and as a whole people are seldom inclined to contrast prospective losses with present gain, he revelled in all the satisfaction of national success.

There remain two more passages of his administration to be particularly mentioned; the first involves his conduct in repressing the liberty of the subject, on account of the excitement which was

Digitized by Google

caught from the march of French freedom, and the other involves the dispute about a Regency. Opinions as nearly unanimous as possible prevail on both points. The annihilation of the Corresponding and Constitutional Societies was strictly proper; for the license of any proceedings to an extreme, such as those bodies indulged in, is clearly repugnant to the order of good government, and adverse to the spirit of British law. But the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, and the prosecution of Horne Tooke and others for constructive treason, were arbitrary and indefensible in an egregious degree. The very reasons which operated in favour of the extinction of those societies operated also against the severity by which an adherence to their cause was punished; for it is no difficult task to prove, that as the constitution of the country affords the people sufficient means for obtaining a redress of their grievances, so it also provides the government with ample penalties for disaffection, whether prescriptive or overt. From Pitt's conduct relative to the Regency there can be no dissent, for, setting aside the influence which a desire to retain his power may be presumed to have had upon his motives, it is not to be doubted that the broad principle upon which he adjusted that emergency was strictly just and constitutional.

Such was the general tenour of Mr. Pitt's administration, when in 1801, an event, from which a result of the kind was least to be expected, induced him to resign his place. This was the Union with Ireland, an act of great political expedience, admirable in the design, but execrable in the execution. Prosecuted through its various stages by the most flagitious agency—by unwarrantable intimidation, barbarous cruelties, and excessive bribery, one stipulation was at last made for the purpose of reconciling the whole people to the loss of an essential prerogative, and that stipulation was violated. The Irish Catholics were promised a full restoration of their civil rights; but as soon as the affair was ratified, that long persecuted body was abandoned to its previous condition of ignominy and injustice. Mr. Pitt, indeed, at first resigned his authority, because a superior influence interfered to prevent the consummation of those equitable conditions upon which the Union was obtained. But when it is remembered how very soon after he returned to a full possession of his former powers, and how positively he discountenanced the

Digitized by Google

re-agitation of a question, which, if unjust, it was a crime to promise, and if just, a greater crime to withhold, it is impossible not to pronounce this the most inconsistent, and the least honourable passage in his life.

The resignation just alluded to occurred in 1801, and his re-ascension to the Treasury and Exchequer took place in 1804. During this interval of privacy he spent his time retired at Walmer Castle, in Kent, a seat which he enjoyed as Constable of Dover Castle, and there devoted the talents which had been employed to adjust the fortunes of empires, in training two regiments of the Cinque Port Volunteers. Long as he had deprecated a peace, yet he now concurred in the treaty of Amiens, and supported the minister who made it, until he discovered that the Admiralty was weak, and then he upset the government. The first care of his third administration was to relapse into war, and form a continental league against the usurpations of Buonaparte: it failed like two others which he previously cemented for the same purpose, and the consequences pressed most detrimentally upon his mind. At this conjuncture he is said to have wished for the co-operation of Mr. Fox and Lord Grenville; but the King would not listen to his overtures, and he was left to struggle without help in his extremity. The distress thus occasioned was augmented by mortification at the impeachment of his friend Lord Melville, and at last his constitution broke down under the pressure of anxiety. Once debilitated on a bed of sickness, disorders the most complicated and fatal arose, and all hopes of preserving his life disappeared. His nervous system became so deranged, that he enjoyed no rest for weeks successively; a fit of the gout next made its appearance, water on the chest then came on, and ere long he lay helpless between sleep and insensibility. Such was the melancholy state in which this great minister expired, on the 23d of January, 1806. It has been remarked that the day of his death was also the anniversary of his introduction into the House of Commons.

That the loss of such a man must have been acutely felt, and his memory highly honoured, will be easily conceived. His body lay in state in the Painted Chamber of the House of Lords, and his funeral, which was made public by order of the House of Commons, took place, under all the circumstances of heraldic pomp,

Digitized by Google

on the 22d of February. His grave was sunk close to the coffin of his father in the north transept of Westminster Abbey. Notwithstanding the length of time during which he remained in office, he had accumulated no money, but died 40,000*l.* in debt. These obligations were gratefully discharged out of the public purse. Besides the national monument which illustrates this article, other memorials of his fame were also raised. A sum of 8000*l.* was subscribed for a statue in the University of Cambridge, which has been executed by Nollekens; and a sort of mausoleum, expensive but inelegant, was also erected by the Corporation of London in Guildhall.

An idea of Mr. Pitt's eloquence having been already given, it only remains to sketch his character as a man and a statesman. His private virtues and social endowments were rich; to the world he appeared cold and distant, but his friends averred that his disposition was engagingly complacent, and his temper sweetly cheerful. By them the kindness of his heart, the gentleness of his manners, the playfulness of his humour, and the generosity of his spirit, were enjoyed with delight, and remembered with concern. In every stage of existence his honour was high, and his disinterestedness illustrious. Greatly ambitious, he scorned, nevertheless, wealth, title, and popularity. The only pecuniary acknowledgment he received for his protracted services was the Wardenship of the Cinque Ports, and that post was pressed upon him by the King in a manner that admitted of no refusal. As a financier he exceeded all his predecessors: he found the country impoverished and exhausted, with an income scarcely adequate to the expenses of a peace, and a debt of enormous weight; yet he devised a sufficient plan for the reduction of that debt, and raised the public credit to a condition of unprecedented prosperity. When he came into power, our commercial affairs were at the lowest ebb; but when he died, the exports of Great Britain were higher than they had ever been before. Viewed generally, and impartially compared, it is evident, that though he raised more money than any former minister, he formed his schemes with precise judgment, apportioned his taxes with happy discrimination, and brought his receipts coequal with his estimates. He set aside the old rules of finance, and balanced the income and expenditure of the nation. If in the coalitions which he entered upon against France he was unsuccess-

Digitized by Google

ful, in the measures which he directed against that power himself, he was always triumphant—Howe, Abercrombie, Duncan, St. Vincent, and Nelson, achieved immortality under his auspices.

Such in substance is the panegyric of his admirers; but it has been remarked by his adversaries, that from a friend he became an enemy to popular rights; that if he was one of the first to advocate the question of reform, he was also the first to turn against it; that if he levied a richer revenue than any predecessor, he also contracted a greater debt; that if he devised a sinking fund, he also neutralised all the benefits attached to its operation, by diverting it from its original purposes; that he affected the honour of deprecating the inhumanity of a slave trade, but never availed himself of the power to abrogate its enormities; and finally, that he violated his pledged faith with the people of Ireland, and unfeelingly betrayed their interests.

THE HON. SIR WILLIAM PONSONBY, K.B.

Of this monument, which was decreed by parliament, and adjoins the northern entrance into St. Paul's Cathedral, it is observable that a great effort has been made in the design, but that a great deficiency occurred in the execution. The former is the aspiration of R. Theed, R.A. the latter the labour of E. H. Bailey, R.A. The death of Ponsonby was occasioned by the weakness of a horse, which broke down under him in a charge, and left him disabled under the lances of the French cuirassiers. Accordingly the animal is introduced in the act of faintly sinking; while the rider, a naked figure, is placed on the foreground, in a strained kneeling attitude, for the purpose of receiving a wreath of laurel from the hands of a statue of Victory. In no other instance, perhaps, is a more vulgar combination of nature and art, of truth and fiction, to be found; and in no other, likewise, is there

Digitized by Google

so poor a display of merit in the workmanship, to atone for the errors of the imagination. It is a confused idea wrought with a heavy hand. The pedestal has no inscription.

Military biography has been extremely neglected in the literature of Great Britain, a circumstance which makes the present a barren sketch. If cotemporaries feel no interest in recording their personal knowledge of an individual, it rarely happens that posterity can supply the deficiency; and, if at the conjuncture, when a man's reputation is highest, no collateral information is gathered together respecting his life, he can only be remembered for particular circumstances. Such is the case with the subject of this sketch, and such too is the case with many more of his comrades in arms, who claim a notice in this work. Several of the officers who fell in the Peninsular war, are therefore comprised in this article, and that is done for the mere purpose of saving the trouble of repeated excuses, and avoiding the inconveniences of reiterated disappointment. Sir William Ponsonby was a son of the Earl of Besborough, and a native of Ireland. He entered the army as a cornet in an independent company, removed into the 83d foot, with the rank of lieutenant, and became a major in the Irish Fencibles, on the 5th of December, 1794. Exchanging into the 5th dragoon guards, in 1798, he obtained a lieutenant-colonelcy in the army during the year 1800, and rose to be lieutenant-colonel of his regiment in 1803. On the 5th of July 1810, he was promoted to a colonelcy in the army, and honoured with the order of the Bath; and on the 4th of June, 1813, was gazetted a major-general. He served in almost all the wars of his time; but, being precluded by the nature of his service from the honour of commanding a division, had his chances of distinction confined to the display of personal bravery. For this quality he was eminently distinguished, and repeatedly praised. At the battle of Waterloo he lost his life by an excess of intrepidity; for advancing before his men in the heat of a charge he leaped into a ploughed field, attended only by a single aid-de-camp, where his horse foundered in the soft mould, and he was precipitated to the ground just as the enemy were advancing at a rapid pace. Troop after troop rode over his body, which, at the close of the day, was found, transfixed by seven lances. Some of his comrades in the Peninsula are now to be mentioned.

Digitized by Google

Major-general Mackenzie, and Brigadier-general Langworth, two officers who fell at Talavera, are distinguished by a tabular monument, which was erected through a parliamentary grant, and fills the panel above the bust of Major-general Dundas, in the north transept of St. Paul's Cathedral. It is composed of a tomb wrought with two wreaths, near which is a mournful personification of Victory, and two boys, the one crowned with oaken boughs, and the other wearing a helmet, and exhibiting in his hand a broken French Eagle. The object of the work is thus indicated:—

NATIONAL MONUMENT
to Major General
J. K. MACKENZIE,
and Brigadier-General
R. LANGWORTH,
who fell at
TALAVERA,
July 26,
MDCCCIX.

The victory of Albuera is also commemorated in St. Paul's Cathedral, by a monument to two officers, who were killed in the slaughter it occasioned. The one is tabular, executed by Chantrey, and placed in the western ambulatory of the north transept. Like the other works of the same tasteful artist, the design is judiciously founded upon the actual circumstances which led to the performance. Major-general Hoghton was mortally wounded during a spirited attack, and is here represented, rising from the ground after he had received the ball which killed him, but still animated with the order of battle, directing his men, who are introduced in a charge of bayonets. In the back-ground is a figure of Victory, which, by the bye, mars the beauty of a neatly wrought scene: she holds the British colours in one hand, and with the other extends a wreath to crown the fallen soldier. The epitaph is short:—

Erected at the Public Expense to the memory of
Major-General DANIEL HOGHTON,
who fell gloriously, 16th May, 1811, at Albuera.

Digitized by Google

The opposite panel is devoted to Sir William Myers, who has a monument by Kendrick, which affords a capital specimen of the ridiculous extremes to which allegory may be carried. Hercules and Minerva, or, as they are explained in the guide-books, Wisdom and Valour, meet before a tomb, which is surmounted by a bust, and shake hands at their ease. The inscription is somewhat curiously particular, stating rather what the subject was not, than what he was. This is the order in which it runs :—

Erected at the Public Expense to the Memory of
Lieutenant-Colonel Sir WILLIAM MYERS, Bart.
Who fell gloriously in the Battle of Albuera, May 16th, 1811,
Aged 27 years.
His illustrious Commander the Duke of Wellington bore this
Honourable testimony to his services and abilities,
In a letter to Lady Myers, written from Elvas, May 20, 1811.
" It will be some consolation to you to know that
Your son fell in the action, in which, if possible,
The British troops surpassed all their former deeds, and at
The head of the Fusileer Brigade, to which a great part of the
Final success of the day was to be attributed.
As an officer, he had already been highly distinguished,
And, if Providence had prolonged his life, he promised
To become one of the brightest ornaments to his profession,
And an honour to his country.

There are yet two monuments more in St. Paul's Cathedral, which were occasioned by the capture of Salamanca. The one is in the panel above the Parliamentary tribute to Sir Thomas Picton; it commemorates Major-general Marchant, and was designed by James Smith, and executed after his decease by Rossi. A personification of Spain places trophies on a tomb, near which Britannia, seated, points out the act to a boy, who is described to represent a military cadet. The first idea is as old as the art itself, and as common as possible; but the second, though scarcely valuable enough to constitute a larceny, is stolen from Flaxman's naval students at the tomb of Nelson. Its object is thus specified :—

Erected
At the Public Expense

Digitized by Google

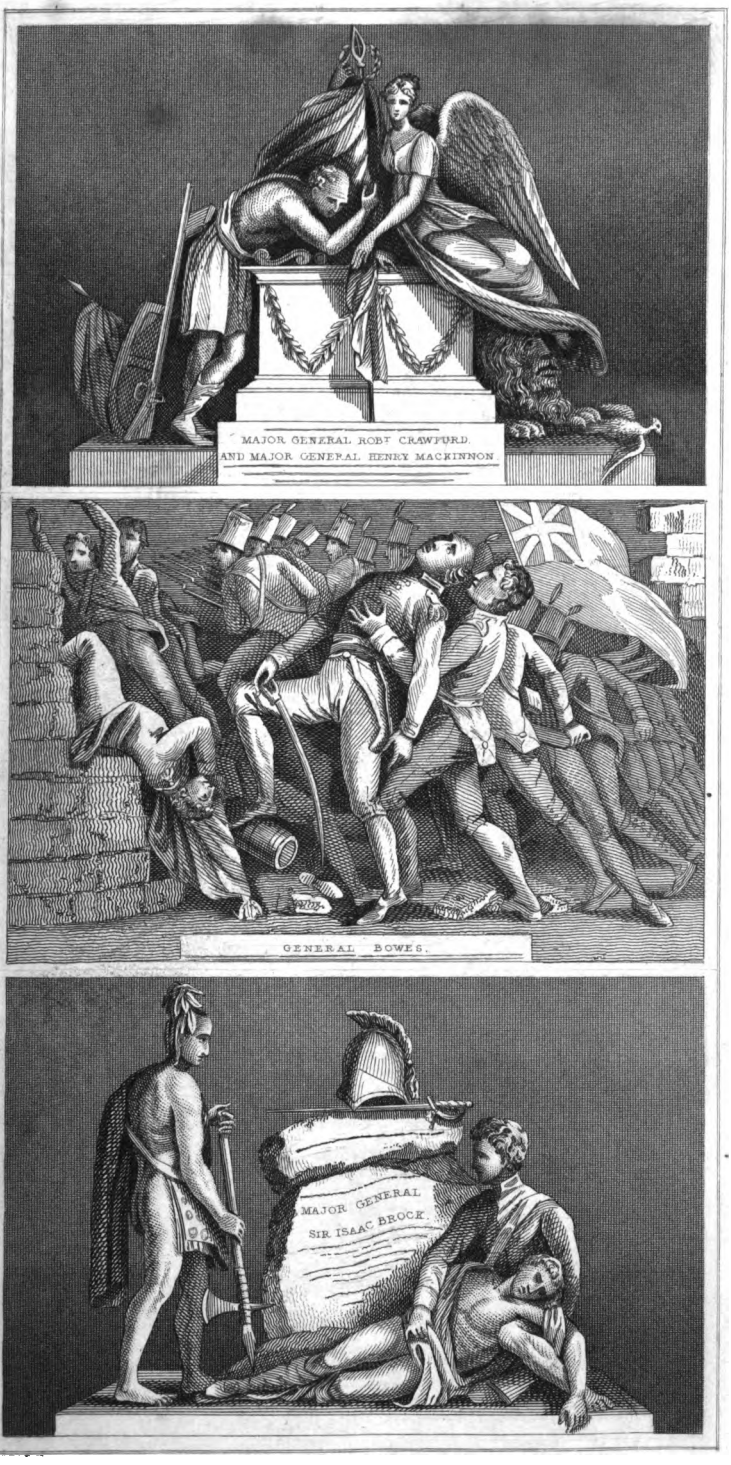
To the Memory of
Major-General
GASPARD LE MARCHANT,
Who gloriously fell
In the Battle of
Salamanca.

The last tribute to which attention is here to be directed, is decidedly one of the best pieces of sculpture, both as to composition and execution in the whole Cathedral—a tabular monument by Chantrey, to the Memory of Major-general Bowes, which is rather unfavourably fixed high up in one of the panels of the ambulatory, which leads into the choir. It is a scene admirably chiselled from life. Bowes was slain in the breach at the storming of Salamanca, and the actual circumstances of his death are here excellently pourtrayed. The shattered wall, the beaten enemy tumbling headlong with his colours, the charging British, and the victorious general falling on the fore-ground into the arms of a comrade, are all faithfully preserved, and vividly exhibited without any violence of fiction, or obtrusion of allegory to disfigure the animation of truth, or confuse the moral of an historical episode. One only circumstance is likely to excite a regret—the monument has no inscription.

MATHEW PRIOR.

NEARLY facing the visitor as he enters the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey, stands the monument of Mathew Prior, who, to repeat the quotation of Dr. Johnson, "as the last piece of human vanity," left 500*l.* for the erection of this tribute to his own name. It is an emblematical performance, well executed by Gibbs, the architect, presenting a good bust of the deceased,

Digitized by Google



London Published by John Williams, 44, Paternoster Row, Aug 1836.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

supported on an altar-piece of fine marble, by Thalia, on the one hand, and History on the other. These figures are finely wrought, and may be distinguished, the former by a flute, and the latter by a closed book. The design is crowned by a pediment, on which are introduced two boys, he to the left holding an hour-glass empty, and he to the right an inverted torch: the apex is topped with an urn. The air of this monument is stately and correct; but the sense of the design dull and insipid as every mythological subject must by its very nature be. The inscription, a long and laboured composition in Latin, flatteringly recapitulates the political events of his life, and fully characterises his writings; but is too profuse for a translation:—

Sui temporis historiam meditanti,
Paulatim obrepens febris
Operi simul et vitæ filum abrupit,
Sept. 18. An. Dom. 1721, Ætat. 57.
H. S. E.
Vir eximius
Serenissimis
Regi Gulielmo Reginæque Mariæ
In congressione Fœderatorum
Hagæ anno 1690 celebrata,
Deinde Magnæ Britanniæ legatis
Tum iis,
Qui anno 1697 Pacem Ryswicki confecerunt,
Tum iis,
Qui apud Gallos annis proximis legationem obierunt;
Eodem etiam anno 1697 in Hibernia
Secretarius;
Nec non in utroque honorabili consessu
Eorum,
Qui anno 1700 ordinandis Commertii negotiis,
Quique anno 1711 dirigendis Portorii rebus,
Præsidebant,
Commissionarius;
Postremo
Ab Anna
Felicissimæ Memoriæ Regina
Ad Ludovicum XIV Galliæ Regem
Missus anno 1711
De Pace stabilienda,
(Pace etiamnum durante

Digitized by Google

Diuque ut boni jam omnes sperant duratura)
Cum summa potestate Legatus:
MATTHÆUS PRIOR ARMIGER:
Qui
Hos omnes, quibus cumulatus est, titulos
Humanitatis, ingenii, eruditionis laude
Superavit:
Cui enim nascenti faciles arriserant Musæ,
Hunc puerum Schola hic regia perpolivit,
Juvenem in Collegio S^ti Johannis
Cantabrigia optimis scientiis instruxit;
Virumque denique auxit; et perfecit
Multa cum viris principibus consuetudo.
Ita natus, ita institutus
A vatum choro avelli nunquam potuit,
Sed solebat sæpe rerum civilium gravitatem
Amœniorum literarum studiis condire.
Et cum omne adeo Poetices genus
Haud infeliciter tentaret,
Tum in fabellis concinne lepideque texendis
Mirus artifex
Neminem habuit parem.
Hæc liberalis animi oblectamenta,
Quæ nullo illi labore constiterint,
Facile ii perspexere, quibus usus est amici;
Apud quos urbanitatum et leporum plenus
Cum ad rem, quæcumque forte inciderat,
Apte, varie, copioseque alluderet,
Interea nihil quæsitum, nihil vi expressum
Videbatur,
Sed omnia ultro effluere,
Et quasi jugi e fonte affatim exuberare,
Ita suos tandem dubios reliquit,
Essetne in scriptis, poeta elegantior,
An in convictu, comes jucundior.

That the biography of one so particularly eulogised, should, in any respect, be subjected to uncertainty or ignorance, is a lamentable matter; yet such is the case respecting the birth and parentage of Matthew Prior, who has been said to have been born in Dorsetshire, in the county of Middlesex, and also at Charing Cross, in London; and who has been represented to have had a farmer, or a joiner, or a victualler, for his father. Be these

Digitized by Google

circumstances as they may, and they are all alike dubious, he was certainly left an orphan at a very early age, and then domesticated with an uncle, who kept the Rummer tavern, in Cockspur-street, Westminster. By the interposition of this relation, he was sent to Westminster School, and had the honour of receiving the light of knowledge through the medium of Dr. Busby's birch. As soon as he had mastered that portion of literature incidental to the school course, he was taken back to his uncle's house, where the Earl of Dorset, celebrated as a patron of literature, one day found him poring over an old copy of Horace. A conversation ensued, and the nobleman was so well pleased with young Prior's knowledge, that he undertook the cost of his academical studies on the spot. Entering his name in the books of St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1682, when he was eighteen years old, he became a Bachelor of Arts, within the term of four years, but did not attain a master's degree until 1700, when it was conferred by mandamus. What his success or reputation were during his College course, has not been particularized; but it is highly probable that he must have been respected.

According to an established custom of St. John's College, Cambridge, some poems on sacred subjects are annually sent to the Earl of Essex, as an acknowledgment of the bounty shown by one of his ancestors to the foundation. Such was the occasion on which, in 1788, Prior's maiden verses entitled the 'Deity,' were composed, and forwarded to the Earl, who, in all probability, was thus led to favour the writer. The context of the work suffices to evince that he must have had not only a personal acquaintance with the Earl's establishment, but an intimacy with the family. How else could a poet criticise a famous picture, or applaud a lady's music? In the following year 1689, he concurred with Montague, afterwards Earl of Halifax, in ridiculing Dryden's 'Hind and Panther,' by the 'City Mouse and the Country Mouse,' a performance which attracted considerable applause, and laid a foundation for the political preferment to which both writers subsequently rose; it cannot, however, be regarded as a very clever burlesque, and could only have done good by exploding the unnatural extravagance of fabulous morality,—a desideratum, which, to this day, has not been effected. Montague was the first

Digitized by Google

of the two who was rewarded by a place, and as he also rose to higher dignity and fortune, is said to have always chagrined his coadjutor.

Prior made his first appearance in a political capacity during the year 1691, when he was attached to the congress at the Hague, as secretary of the British embassy. In this assembly he conducted himself so much to the satisfaction of his associates, and of King William, in particular, that he was made a Gentleman of the Bedchamber upon his return to England. For some time he was enabled to bend with ease over those literary exercises which were so congenial to his taste; and when, in 1695, Queen Mary died, he came forward in concert with all those who could write verse, and offered his tribute to her memory. As he had a double call to sorrow, for he was not only a poet but a courtier, his ode was immensely long, and had the honour of being presented to the King. Thus favourably assiduous, his interests do not seem to have been forgotten, whenever an opportunity presented itself for employing him in that capacity for which he had already displayed an aptitude. In two years afterwards he acted as secretary at the treaty of Ryswick, and in the year following was employed in the same manner at the court of France, where he was received with great distinction by Lewis the XIV. The king attending at Loo, during the following year, he was made the bearer of despatches to the government at home; and there nominated Under Secretary of State, in the Earl of Jersey's office; a post, however, which he did not long retain, because the Earl himself was soon after ejected.

In the year 1700 he eulogised the heroism of King William, and the glories of his reign, in the longest and most showy of his poems—the 'Carmen Seculare.' During the following year he was returned to the House of Commons for the borough of East Grinstead, and gave the first indication of having changed parties, by voting for an impeachment of those Lords who had advised the King to sign the Partition Treaty. This conduct, on his part, was the more inconsistent, because he had been officially employed upon the negociation of the contract. After célebrating the Battle of Blenheim, in a poetical epistle to Boileau, he collected his pieces into a volume, then sung the victory of

Digitized by Google

Ramilies; and in 1710, resumed his political labours in adjusting the Peace of Utretch. This was an event which elevated him to his highest rank as a statesman, for he spent some time in France, with all the trust and dignity of an ambassador, though he was never formally invested with the title; but so base is fortune, that it also involved the greatest misfortune of his life. In 1714, the Tories were degraded, and the Whigs instituted the most violent proceedings against their adversaries. Prior was recalled from Paris by a warrant, lodged in the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms, impeached by Walpole; and after a close confinement of two years, excepted from the act of Grace, which passed in 1717. For all this bitterness it is melancholy to state, that no better grounds have appeared than the mere rancour of party spirit. The treaty of Utretch was made the foundation of Prior's persecution; but nothing criminal was ever discovered against him, and at last he was suffered to go at large in silence.

Being thus left in his fifty-third year with no other means of fortune than the revenue of his fellowship at College, his friends proposed a subscription for a complete edition of his poems; and the sum of four thousand guineas was realized by the project. Harley, Earl of Oxford, added another thousand for the purchase of Down Hall, in which he spent the remainder of his days in undisturbed quiet, though, like most men who have ever enjoyed a busy greatness, somewhat dissatisfied with the humility of retirement. He died at Wimpole, a seat of his steady friend and patron, the Earl of Oxford, and was honourably buried in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey.

Of Prior's private life but little is known, and of his poems but little need be said, for the era of their popularity seems to have passed away. His habits are said to have been irregular, his relaxations immoral, and his tastes so very gross, that to the last days of his life he would smoke a pipe and drink ale in a public-house with soldiers and loose women. As is commonly the case, when he turned his coat in politics he became remarkable for the acrimony with which he encountered his old friends. The great praise of his poetry is, that he writes with plain sense, unaffected ease, and pure nature. From this character, however, his love pieces are to be excepted, for they abound with all the taste-

Digitized by Google

lessness of mythology. Wit was his fort: it gave a charm to his conversation, and has more than any other quality preserved his writings from oblivion. Except in the style of his diction, he has little that is original; those finer attributes of poetry, intense feelings, and a rich imagination, delight not in his pages; and numbers generally correct, but seldom sweet, with a meaning always perspicuous, but never ornamental, constitute the distinction of his works.

HENRY PURCELL.

AFFIXED to one of the pillars, behind the screen of the choir, in the north aisle of Westminster Abbey, is an old-fashioned tablet with this short inscription, which, by the by, is now scarcely legible:—

Here lyes
HENRY PURCELL, ESQ.
Who left this Life,
And is gone to that blessed place
Where only his Harmony
can be exceeded.
Obiit 21 *die Novembris,*
Anno Ætatis suæ 37,
Annoque Domini, 1695.

The little that is known of some of the most deserving men that have ever existed, has long been a matter of universal regret; and yet, perhaps, the circumstance is not without its charm: for may we not affirm, that as indistinctness is laid down as an indispensable quality of the sublime in nature, so is the imagination reverentially excited by the obscurity which occasionally

Digitized by Google

hallows the records of genius? If the supposition can at all avail, the subject of this sketch is one to whom it may be specifically applied. Though not according to priority of time, he is at least in primitive genius, the father of English music; and yet we know scarcely any particulars of his life beyond the meagre information supplied in his epitaph, that he died on the 21st day of November, in the thirty-seventh year of his age, and in the year of our Lord 1695. Both his father and a paternal uncle were musicians, and Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal, in which he, too, received his musical education under Humphrey, a master to whom alone he seems to have been indebted for instructions in his art. It is true that this honour has also been claimed for Dr. Blow; but it is probable that he gave him nothing more than a few lessons. Purcell was introduced into the Chapel Royal, during the year 1664, when he was only six years old, and had just lost his father. The sedulous talent with which he cultivated his studies may be inferred from two facts: he brought forward some of the most popular of his anthems, while only a mere chorister; and was chosen organist of Westminster Abbey, at the premature age of eighteen. In his twenty-fourth year he was additionally preferred to the post of organist for the Chapel Royal.

Henceforward he produced with unexampled fertility and applause, and composed alike for the Church, the Theatre, and the Chamber. Being principally distinguished for fugue, canon, and counterpoint, ingenious exercises, which were once the main tests of musical merit, his popularity must be admitted to have, in some measure, declined, as such effusions became unfashionable. But there remain standard qualities in his music, of whatever description, which must ensure him a reputation so long as the art is practised amongst us. When the examples that existed for him to emulate are reviewed, it will be found that he improved upon their greatest excellence in a pre-eminent degree. The expressiveness with which he adapted the accentuations of his airs to the meaning of words; the appropriate tones of sound by which he distinguished written styles; the power of his instrumental accompaniments, and the feeling and ardour of his ballads, all display a depth and variety of attainments exhibited by no previous master.

Digitized by Google

During his lifetime he appears to have given only two publications to the world:—a 'Musical Entertainment for St. Cecilia's Day,' in 1683; and the music of 'Œdipus,' a masque, in 1692. Of his anthems, specimens the most favourable are preserved in the collections of Doctors Boyce and Aldrich: of his songs, a fine assortment was published by his widow, with a flattering profusion of poetical advertisements, in two volumes, folio, under the title of 'Orpheus Britannicus;' and an edition of the best of his instrumental pieces, arranged in four parts, for two violins, a tenor and bass, was thus made public—'A Collection of Airs composed for the Theatre, and on other occasions, by the late Mr. Henry Purcell: London, printed for Frances Purcell, executrix of the author, 1697.' The plays for which he set music, were numerous and successful; such as the opera of 'Dioclesian,' 'Bonduca,' 'Timon of Athens,' 'Lee's Theodosius,' 'Dryden's alteration of the Tempest,' &c. &c. From amongst his vocal productions it may suffice to enumerate 'Britons strike home;' 'To Arms, To Arms;' 'You twice ten Hundred Duties;' 'When Myra sings;' 'From Rosy Bowers;' 'Mad Bess,' and the popular glee, 'Come unto these yellow Sands.' In every style of composition, whether pathetic, wild, passionate, energetic or grand, his genius was exquisite and original. He is not now to be considered highly polished, but he must always be regarded a most powerful master. His harmonical resources were severe, but not various; and his art was deep but not melting. Music, when he lived, was far removed from its modern perfection; in England it had been manifestly on the decline just before his day; and it is Purcell's boast, not only to have revived, but substantially invigorated the art. This article might easily be enlarged by a disquisition upon his works—works which, considering his short life, surprise not less by their number and variety, than their excellence: but his professional character was pithily expressed, when he was styled a "genius of probity," and with that distinction it must here be resigned.

Digitized by Google

JOHN RENNIE.

THE profession of a civil engineer is one which, in Great Britain, has only risen to any marked repute or celebrity of very late years. But a short interval has passed since those buildings which we are most accustomed to regard with admiration and describe with pride, were generally the work of men who were emphatically designated practitioners of the *fine* arts, while the labours of the engineer, if more serviceable, were less appreciated, because confined to objects of inferior pleasure to the eye. That period is gone by; and henceforward the achievements of the engineer, must be contemplated with the same wonder, and viewed with as rich a gratification as either the delineations of the painter, or the models of the statuary. Amongst the individuals who have in this profession lately elevated the fame of Great Britain, not only into equality with, but to superiority over the cotemporary nations of the world, in every art and every science, John Rennie must long continue proudly remembered; for the monuments of his ability cannot but endure to the remotest ages of our history, and be distinctly honoured while there is a record of our national greatness in existence.

He was born during the year 1761, near Preston Kirk, a small village of East Lothian, in Scotland, and there received those essential rudiments of education, for which his moral country is generally celebrated. He lost his father when only five years old, and early evinced a preference for mechanical employment, and ingenious pursuits. The first object of the kind which attracted his attention, and stimulated exertion, was the erection of a new mill upon the farm of Andrew Mickle, a neighbour, now well known to agriculturists as the inventor of the thrashing

Digitized by Google

machine. It was young Rennie's fortune to witness the progress of Mr. Mickle's labours in the construction of this valuable piece of mechanism, and he watched the work with an assiduity, which, far from retarding the advancement of his studies, actually encreased the rapidity with which he seized on them, for he was here impelled to keep his knowledge of the principles of science, coequal with the practice to which he thus saw them reduced.

At the age of eighteen he visited Edinburgh, and became intimate with the Professors of the University. Under their care he perfected himself in the sciences; and ere long became closely associated with them as a man of the first abilities. The character thus attained, led to his introduction, in 1784, to Messrs. Bolton and Watt, the memorable inventors of the steam engine. By those gentlemen, so talented themselves, he soon grew respected for a capacity equally powerful, and was speedily employed as engineer to their factories, near Birmingham. Soon after the period of this engagement, an erection of fresh works was required for the multiplied business of the firm, and it was determined to construct the Albion-Mills, Blackfriars. By Rennie were the plans of this establishment drawn up, and to his care was the execution of the machinery principally entrusted: a confidence which, upon the completion of the undertaking, was amply justified by the excellence of the machinery, which was universally estimated to be without a parallel.

Besides the reputation gained by these performances, Rennie's abilities became otherwise generally known through the skill with which he raised several other mills; so that in 1791, he felt himself happily justified in the means and pretensions of starting into practice upon his own account. Of his labours about this period, two in particular deserve mention—the Crinan and Lancaster Canals, of which the former is memorable for the ingenious labour required, and numerous difficulties surmounted in the course of its perforation, and the latter is celebrated for the fine aqueduct it carries over the river Lune. To detail the characteristic merits, and prominent success of these constructions, or of those others we shall have occasion to enumerate, would demand great length of space, and, perhaps, after all, prove somewhat dry and uninteresting to any but a strictly scientific reader. It shall not, there-

Digitized by Google

fore, be our object to describe, one after the other, all those eminent employments on which Rennie's time and capacity were so reputably exercised, but limit our curiosity to a brief account of such of his works as are conspicuous for the highest deserts. The metropolis is the principal theatre of his fame: the London Docks, the East and West India Docks, were all planned and finished by him in a style which commands the wonder of strangers, and the continued approbation even of those who are the best and have been the longest acquainted with the various benefits and services obtained through them. Nor are all these emporiums to be reviewed with a general glance of commendation, as simply containing a fine artificial harbour for the largest navies in the world; the unexampled economy of labour for which they provide, and the various combinations of different works within the same space; the disposition of the stores and magazines, and the arrangement of the moveable bridges, present a noble system of facilities equally deserving of praise, on the score of architectural ingenuity, and mechanical improvement. While upon that division of standard pursuits, by which, through the interposition of Rennie, the dangers of the sea have been reduced, and the land made more accessible, it may be most apposite to speak of the Breakwater at Plymouth, a monument of genius, which would of itself have sufficed to immortalize the man, who, by raising such a bulwark, may be said to have actually overcome the ocean, and defied the tempest. It is eminent for the possession of those essential distinctions which characterise the massive works of this engineer—the forms are devised with a judgment, the dimensions blended with a prudence, and the solidity of the whole is secured by an invincible force which cannot even be regarded without a feeling of the deepest awe.

This Breakwater is an effort of art, interesting enough to admit of a few more descriptive words. The risks to which ships were exposed, when obliged by stress of weather, or want of time, to make directly for Plymouth Harbour, having been long felt, and loudly complained of, the government expressed a determination, to do all that was possible for the correction of an evil, from which their own navy suffered oftener, and more severely, than any other vessels. Designs of improvement were advertised for, and numerous plans sent in for approbation; but when it is stated, that

Digitized by Google

Mr. Rennie was among the number of those who made a proposal, it is almost unnecessary to add, that he deserved the preference. According to his drafts, a line of works was run across the Sound, from east to west, for the length of 1700 yards, which left an entrance open, and free at either end. The extremities incline to the north in an angle of 104° from the centre; and are each a curve of 550 yards; but where the sweep ceases, a straight line of 1000 yards connects them together. The breadth of the extreme base is 400 feet, at a depth of 30 feet under low water-mark; this gradually diminishes at every rise of ten feet, until, at some height above high water-mark, it is only 48 feet wide. From one end to the other, there is a smooth walking path along this causeway full six feet wide, and well-protected; and the sides are accommodated with jetties, in order to enable boats to land at all tides, and in every weather. Besides the Breakwater,—most of the stones, or rather masses, of which are of a greater weight than ten tons each,—a contiguous task was also directed by Rennie, at the same period, which has occasioned great convenience, and the addition of much security; this was the labour of clearing away from the fine pool, thus formed, many rocks which roughly jutted up from the bottom, and had often done considerable damage to the vessels as they casually floated about from their moorings. For this purpose diving-bells were used with singular dexterity and success; they were each six feet wide, and seven high; and were furnished with shelves for the tools of the workmen, who descended two at a time, and picked out the solid rocks with their axes, and deposited the fragments thus knocked off into canvas-bags provided for the purpose. After toiling for two hours, one party was relieved by another. The additional pay for working in this manner under water, was 1*s.* 6*d*, for each descent; a remuneration high enough for the risk, which was little feared, because never fatal.

Such are the leading features of all Mr. Rennie's constructions, and they are familiarly distinguishable in those three ornaments of the British metropolis—Waterloo, Southwark, and London Bridges, of which the two first were raised under his own superintendence, and the last is taken from the designs which he left behind him for the purpose. Southwark Bridge was the first

Digitized by Google

built, in order of time; and was also the first erection in this or any other country, in which the bold idea of using solid masses of cast-iron, and of a size far exceeding the largest stones, that are adopted for similar ends, was introduced. The design of the arches is, to the eye, as simple in beauty as their strength is daily proved to be grand in effect. It is impossible to consider the extent to which they spread, the elevation to which they rise, and the huge forms by which they are wrought, without admitting that metallurgy has in this country been carried to the highest pitch of perfection; and that the powers of modern man are elevated in an unparalleled degree above the triumphs of ancient genius. But the bridge at the Strand is, perhaps, that monument which is oftenest praised by the traveller, and most enjoyed by the native; and there are many circumstances to be mentioned, which seem to justify the preference. Independent of the beauty of the design, and the neatness of its execution, the merit of the level plan, and the prodigious labour of smoothing the approaches; the fact that it is confessedly the finest bridge in the world, raised at a cost of a million and a half of money, and finished within the moderate space of six years, all tend to impressions which extenuate the warmth of national pride upon the subject.

Besides these tasks of more striking labour and grander appearance, Rennie engaged at different periods in other buildings, which equally proved the correctness of his judgment, and the variety of his taste. To describe, or even to specify all these, would induce too much of detail; but it may be mentioned that the Auction Mart, in Bartholomew-lane, and the London Institution, in Moorfields, have always been instanced as very favourable specimens of his skill in architecture. There were also many learned and scientific associations, in the proceedings of which he took a creditable part, after having received the distinction of a gratuitous enrolment amongst their lists of eminent members. Of these, the Royal Societies of London, Dublin, and Edinburgh; the Astronomical and Geological Societies are those best known to the public, and most identified with his name.

In private life the virtues of Mr. Rennie are described by his friends, to have been as estimable as his talents were proved valuable. For the greater period of his life his health was excel-

Digitized by Google

lent, and his strength uncommon. There was every prospect that both would long endure; but as his years approached to number three-score, illness suddenly attacked, and for some time lingered in his frame, until Thursday, the 4th of October, 1821, on which day he expired. His funeral being public, was respectfully attended by the most distinguished men in the metropolis; and his grave was very properly sunk in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral, where it is marked by an altar tomb of polished granite, with this becoming inscription:—

Here lie the mortal remains of
JOHN RENNY,
F.R.S. F.A.S.
Born at Phantassie, in East Lothian,
7th July, 1761.
Deceased in London, 4th Oct. 1821.
This Stone
is dedicated to his private virtues,
and records
the affection and the respect of
his Family and his Friends,
But the many splendid and useful Works
by which,
under his superintending Genius,
England, Scotland, and Ireland,
have been adorned and improved,
are the true monuments of
his public merit.
Waterloo and Southwark Bridges, Plymouth Breakwater,
Sheerness Docks, &c. &c.

To sum up the general merits of this eminent engineer, is no ungrateful task:—he lived admired, and died lamented. He cultivated the art which he professed almost with enthusiasm; and was as remarkable for the profundity with which he studied every theory, as for the efficiency with which he enforced every practice that could be deduced from it. His bodily exertions were also indefatigable; he made it a point to see and examine every work which in its nature or purposes could be assimilated to any thing he had himself undertaken or meditated to perform. His reading was considerable, and the selection of books in his library evinced great judgment. The integrity with which he

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

LONDON

Published by John Williams, 44, Paternoster Row.

May 1823.

Digitized by Google

discharged the many public trusts he was appointed to, was also exemplary: upwards of fifty millions of money were expended under his hands, with an economy that left him, at his death, far less wealthy than the magnitude and cost of his occupations would have led his friends to believe. There was never a subterfuge to be traced in the noble outline of strength for which his labours are so remarkable; he inspected every material himself, and never permitted a contractor to indulge in the hope of a chance through which to elude the terms of his agreement. On these grounds it may be said, as proudly as justly, that he lived and laboured for futurity: his reputation was in the honesty of his deeds, and his enjoyment in the perfect success of his undertakings.

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS.

The monument erected to the first President of the Royal Academy is placed under the great dome of St. Paul's, and supported by the massive pier to the north-west. It is a single statue, and represents the artist in the gown of a Doctor of Laws, holding his celebrated lectures in his right hand, and resting his left upon an elevated pedestal, to which is affixed a bust of Michael Angelo. The work is inscribed with the name of Flaxman, R.A. sculptor; and appears to be a plain performance, with little that is imposing in the position, and something weak in the portraiture of the head. The inscription, of which the following is a translation, is in Latin:—

* To Joshua Reynolds,
The first painter of his age,

* Joshuæ Reynolds,
Pictorum sui seculi facile Principi

Digitized by Google

And in the brightness and harmony of his colouring,
Mutually exciting the varieties of light and shade,
Second to none of the Antient Masters;
Who, possessing the highest glories of his profession,
Became still farther estimable
By the suavity of his manners, and the elegance of his life:
Who found the art languishing and nearly exhausted upon earth,
Revived its charms by the most beautiful exertions,
Illustrated its rules by precepts the most exquisitely written,
And bequeathed it to the emulation of posterity,
Corrected and polished;—
This statue was placed,
By the friends and fosterers of his fame,
In the year of Salvation, 1813.

The cultivation of the art of painting in this country is an improvement of recent date; the different schools which added variety to its many beauties, had each of them completed its list of great masters, and admiration appeared satiated with delight, before any one Englishman took up the easel and made a decent effort to excite emotion, or attract applause. Raphael had delineated all of grace and dignity, Dominichino all of purity and

Et splendore et commissuris colorum
Alternis vicibus luminis et umbræ
Sese mutuo excitantium
Vix ulli veterum secundo;
Qui, cum summa artis gloria uteretur
Et morum suavitate et vitæ elegantia
Perinde commendaretur,
Artem etiam ipsam per orbem terrarum
Languentem et prope intermortuam,
Exemplis egregie venustis suscitavit,
Præceptis exquisite conscriptis illustravit
Atque emendatiorem et expolitiorem
Posteris exercendam tradidit;
Laudum ejus fautores et amici
Hanc statuam posuerunt
A. S. MDCCCXIII.
Natus die xv. Mensis Julii, MDCCXXIII.
Mortem obiit Die xxiii Februarii, MDCCXCII.

Digitized by Google

loveliness, Poussin all that is classical, Carracci all that is great; Rubens had given every harmony of style, and Michael Angelo every sublimity of conception; each contrast of light and shade was to be found in Rembrandt; and all that is wild and romantic in Salvator Rosa; every effect seemed to have been produced, and not a beauty was left untraced upon canvass, when the School of British Painting assumed the first smiles of life. That there were advantages in this brilliant constellation of examples is undeniable; but that there was discouragement in it is also manifest; the very force of ancient triumph damped the struggles of modern success; and it may be truly estimated a glory, that after so much had been previously achieved, any thing meritorious should have still been elucidated.

Nevertheless this victory has been won: the English school of artists has not only put forth compositions eminently entitled to a favourable comparison with the productions of ancient ability, but it has also established a new class of delineations beautifully characteristic of its peculiar talents. Portrait painting is a branch of the art, which, however well it may have been practised amongst other nations, has never been polished with such ingenuity and effect as amongst the British. They found it an inferior order of composition, and they have elevated it to the dignity of historical painting. The remark is peculiarly appropriate to the subject of this sketch, for he was not only the founder of the school, but one of the most successful portrait painters we have had.

Joshua Reynolds was born at Plympton, in Devonshire, on the 15th of July, 1723. He was the youngest in a family of ten children, belonging to the Reverend Samuel Reynolds, curate of Plympton, and master of the grammar school in that borough; a pious and learned man, who supported his numerous offspring with a character of unblemished respectability, upon a very slender income. The circumstances of his birth secured Joshua one benefit—a classical education, of which he availed himself with an ease and proficiency that strewed the path of his future fame with many facilities and considerable estimation.

Few men have risen to any excellence in the provinces of taste and ingenuity, respecting whose early years some striking anec-

Digitized by Google

dotes of premature genius and self-determined talent have not been wonderfully recorded. That the youth of such an artist as Joshua Reynolds should be destitute of similar traits of interest is not to be expected, and we find ourselves accordingly informed, that his taste for drawing was developed even in his boyhood. The first manifestation he gave of this propensity was in copying the portraits to an old edition of Plutarch's Lives upon the blank leaves at the end of the book. These specimens of a natural predilection for the art were long preserved as curiosities by the partiality of his relations, and have been since admitted, with warmer feelings of regard, into the cabinets of the particular. While yet a boy, Richardson's Treatise upon Painting happened to fall into his hands, and by that work, as he used himself afterwards to relate, was his ambition quickly determined to the profession. Soon after this he met with another book of a similar nature, entitled the Jesuist's Perspective, and rapidly possessed himself of the principles it contained. The passion thus forcibly evinced, already attracted the favourable eyes of his father, and it was soon agreed, that instead of offering idle objection to the pursuit which the boy seemed to have adopted for himself, every advantage compatible with the fortune of the family should be laid open before him.

In consequence of this sensible resolution, he had the happiness to find himself, at the age of seventeen, bound an apprentice to Hudson, a man who, at that time, led the fortune of the portrait painters in London. With him young Reynolds continued to reside for some five years or so, during which he applied his attention, in a great measure, to the fundamental and mechanical rules of the profession. To what degree his attainments reached under the instructions of his master, it is not easy to determine, but, in all probability, they were not extraordinary. Hudson, though much praised and greatly courted, had no very high merit to boast of; his felicity lay more in catching the features of a likeness with great fidelity, than in enriching his portraits with the beauties of colouring, or the pretensions of creative embellishment. Perhaps it was a conviction of his own deficiencies that impelled him to recommend his pupil to copy the rich charms of Guercino—a task which the latter executed with so much ability, that several of his

Digitized by Google

copies made at this period from the master just mentioned, have since acquired no inconsiderable reputation and value. The diligence and improvement marked by these productions, received a temporary shock in consequence of some disagreement between him and Hudson, which ere long terminated in an abrupt separation, after which Reynolds returned into Devonshire. There, for three successive years, he followed the impulses of his own mind, and produced a succession of works which, notwithstanding the unfavourable circumstances of his situation, spread his unfledged reputation far around his native home, and added fresh assurances of success to the earnest he had previously excited during his residence in London.

Such were the prospects under which, in 1749, he accepted the invitation of Captain, afterwards Admiral Lord Keppel, to pay a visit to the Mediterranean, on which station that gentleman's ship was ordered. At the close of the same year, Reynolds landed upon the peninsula of Italy, and visited in succession, Leghorn, Rome, and the other cities of that celebrated country, which have been so long and meritoriously exalted for their exquisite possessions in every diversity of the fine arts. The impressions made upon a superior mind by a first acquaintance with such performances must ever be interesting and important: Reynolds seems to have become immediately impressed with a just sense of the excellence revealed before him, and the manner in which advantages were to be derived from them. Unlike others, he drew no copies; on the contrary, he devoted his mind to a deep perusal of the works of the great masters: he compared their styles, sought to estimate their characters, and by a faithful investigation of all, adapted to his own powers a system of distinction for which his judgment and experience gave the promise of natural success. This has been aptly termed the study not of imitation but of intuition.

Three years passed on in this enviable state of classical improvement, when Reynolds came back to his native land in 1752, and exhibited a full length portrait of his friend Captain Keppel, which at once raised him to the head of his profession. Taking a house in Newport-street, Leicester Square, he had the rare happiness of finding that there were no degrees in his fortune. He started at once into the first rank of English artists, and

Digitized by Google

what was more felicitous, found, that even at the onset, he advanced beyond the parallel of competition. The consequence of this superiority, very properly was, that when in the year 1769, George the III. instituted the Royal Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, Reynolds was unanimously elected President; and in confirmation of the choice, honoured with knighthood by the King. From this new dignity much was naturally expected by his country, and much was as certainly obtained: the services of Sir Joshua from that chair were eminently creditable to himself, and highly advantageous to his profession. The discourses which he delivered during his incumbency appeared originally in 1778, and have since been printed in so many forms, and praised in so many ways, that there is nothing more left for a modern author to observe, than that they were the first lectures upon the principles and practice of the fine arts, that were addressed to any audience in this country; and, that though others have since adopted the example, and conveyed instruction in a similar manner, still, no one competitor has obtained for himself the honour of an equal. Sir Joshua Reynolds is the first lecturer on painting we have amongst us, both in precedence of time and priority of desert.

Such was the character of his enjoyments in the metropolis, when his attention was again drawn back to the place of his nativity, by an act of the corporation, who unanimously elected him in rotation freeman, alderman, and mayor, of their Borough. This last compliment flattered the painter so much, that in the warmth of his gratitude he did not hesitate to confess, that he esteemed the favour the greatest distinction which had been conferred upon his professional career. As an acknowledgment for the obligation, he presented the corporation with his portrait, at full length, in the robes peculiar to their chief magistrate. This picture was hung up in the town-hall of Plympton, was engraved, and universally admired. The attitude is one difficult for interest, but here decidedly engaging: he holds one hand before his eyes with an air of modesty, such as painters when they draw themselves, have been generally wont to assume. The occasion of this election, and the subsequent present of this picture, gave rise to two complimentary verses, in Latin, which the burgesses were anxious to

Digitized by Google

see subscribed to the work; but the delicacy of the author declined the adaptation of such flattering praise. The lines were—

"Laudat Romanus Raphaelem, Græcus Apellem,
Plympton Reynoldem jactat utrique parem.

Let Rome her Raphael, Greece Apelles praise,
While Plympton crowns her Reynolds' equal bays."

Some other dignities were conferred at different periods upon Sir Joshua, which, though minor in themselves, may seem to deserve enumeration, as so many proofs of the general repute in which his character was held. Thus we find him chosen a Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies; and in 1784, presented with the freedom of the city of London. Again, when Lord North was made Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Reynolds shared the honours of the occasion, by an admission to the title of Doctor of Laws, an academical distinction to which his talents as a writer justly entitled him. For, independent of the lectures already favourably mentioned, Sir Joshua is remembered among authors for a few papers contributed by him to the 'Idler,' as early as the year 1759. They were his first literary productions, are marked numbers 76, 79, and 82, are all upon the appropriate subject of painting, and claim attention for a pleasantness of observation, and strength of diction, which make them truly favourable companions to the essays of the mighty Doctor, who, it may be here aptly observed, was not more partial to than proud of the President. Johnson often declared, and with evident satisfaction, that he considered Reynolds as one of the first pupils he had raised in his own school of writing. To these praises he also contributed by gracing Mason's 'Translation of Dufresnoy's Essay on Painting,' with the addition of an excellent body of notes.

The life of Reynolds continued its progress in general favour, and considerable enjoyment. His gentle manners and agreeable conversation procured for him a crowd of friends, amongst whom are to be mentioned, with preference, the members of the celebrated Literary Club, with whom he was particularly associated. Added

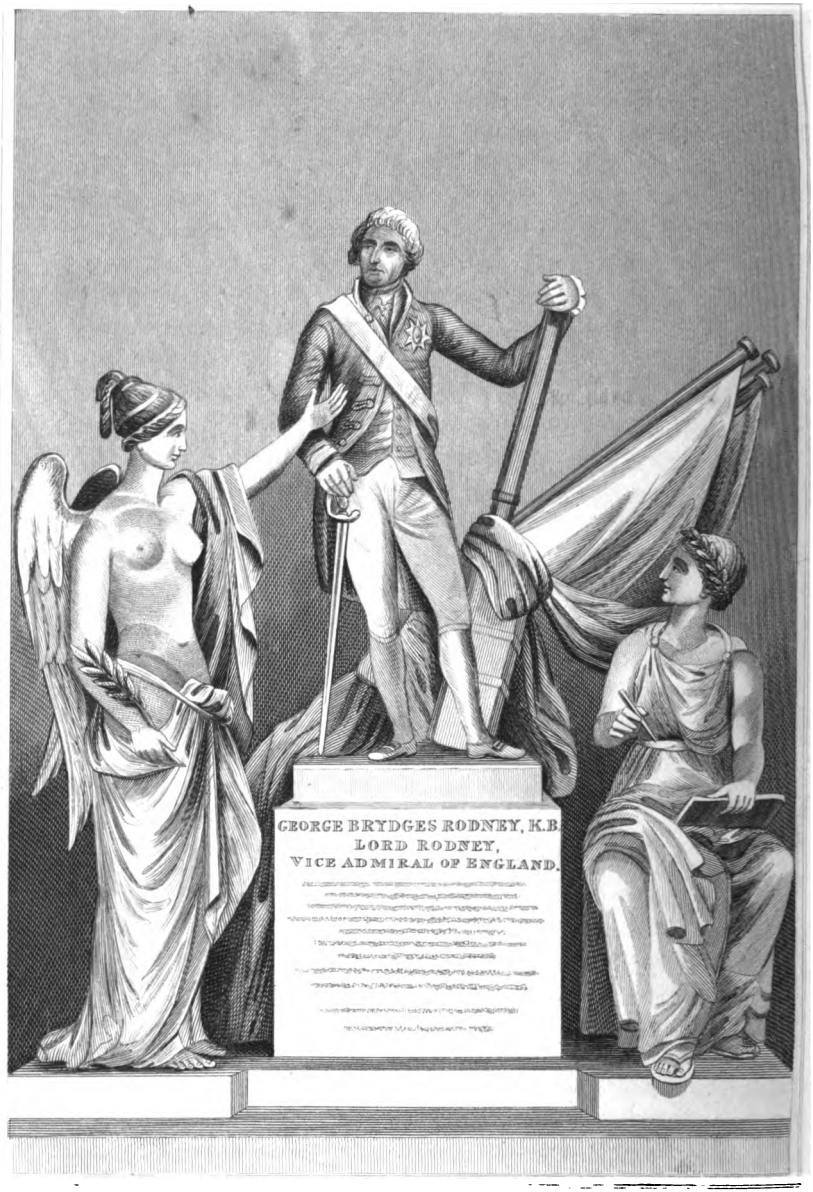
Digitized by Google

to these advantages was the ability he derived from the large emoluments of his profession of living with all the splendour and comforts of a man of fortune. He was thus invested with a double capacity for communicating pleasure, by himself directly, and also through the channel of hospitality. The decline of his life suffered some abatement of this unbroken felicity, by the attacks of an illness, which, after a long endurance of sufferings, put a period to his life. The complaint was deeply seated in a diseased liver; and was farther aggravated by a fit of paralysis, in 1789, through which he lost the sight of his left eye; but under all the pains thus heaped upon him, he preserved to the last moment of his life that gratulatory and agreeable habit which had all along so placidly characterised the tenour of his existence. He died unmarried, and deeply lamented, on Thursday, the 23d of February, 1792, at his house in Leicester-square. His property, which was considerable, devolved to a niece, married to the Earl of Inchiquin; and his remains, after being laid out in solemn state, in the apartments of the Royal Academy, in Somerset House, were interred with public honours, in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral.

The funeral of Sir Joshua Reynolds was one distinguished by singular magnificence and respect. No pomp could more fully display the command which merit and genius must ever usurp over every rank, and all other honours. On this generous occasion, private friends and public admirers, all that was elevated among our gentry, and ancient among our nobility, crowded together to testify their sorrow for the man, and their veneration for the artist. The Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and public functionaries of the city of London, met the procession at the confines of their jurisdiction, and supported the mourners to the Cathedral. It was remarked as an unusual coincidence of homage, that among a body of ten men who carried the pall of his coffin, all were noblemen of the first rank, and greatest name. The last melancholy ceremony performed, the assemblage slowly returned to Somerset House, where Mr. Burke, who had long been the intimate friend of Sir Joshua, came forward to thank them, in the name of the family, for the respectful tribute they had paid to the memory of the deceased; but for once, grief was su-

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google



LONDON.
Published as the Act directs, by John Williams.
44 Paternoster Row, June 1806.

Digitized by Google

perior to eloquence; and the orator stood mute in tears before the assembly.

Thus concludes all that is perishable of an Englishman, who, by his works in art, as well as by his writings; and even more, by the beneficence of his heart, will ever continue an ornament to the history of his country. Beyond all comparison, Sir Joshusa Reynolds was not only the best painter of his age, but the best of all we as yet possess. He was the first amongst us who, in any great or decided degree, added the most standard merits of his profession to the glories of Great Britain. Since the period of his death, his works have only risen progressively in pride and value; and the last production of his easel (the celebrated portrait of Mrs. Siddons, in the character of the Tragic Muse,) which was offered to public sale, was purchased for the unprecedented sum of 3500 guineas. He possessed the theory, as well as the practice of his art; in historical painting there was a grace, and in all he performed, a facility that stamped a character of superiority; but his portraits, for fancy, ease and variety, are far more exquisitely engaging than those of any other English painter. He expired with the full promise, and his memory may already be considered secured in the reversion, of having been the father of the British School of Painting.

RODNEY, LORD RODNEY, K.B.

The design of this monument, which stands in the recess under the western window of the north transept in St. Paul's Cathedral, is thus explained. The seated figure is meant for a personification of History: she is listening to Fame expatiating upon the merits of Rodney, whose statue is elevated upon the pedestal in the centre. Rossi was the artist employed upon the group, for which he received the ample reward of six thousand guineas; and yet

Digitized by Google

the performance of it does him no honour. The inscription runs as follows:—

Erected at the Public Expense
To the Memory of
GEORGE BRIDGES RODNEY, K. B.
Lord Rodney, Vice-Admiral of England,
As a testimony of the gallant and important
Services which he rendered to his Country
In many memorable engagements,
and especially in that of 12 April, 1782,
When a brilliant and decisive Victory was obtained
Over the French Fleet;
And an effectual protection was afforded
To the West Indian Islands,
And to the Commercial Interests of this Kingdom
In the very crisis of the American War.
Lord Rodney was born in 1718.
Died 24th of May, 1792.

Walton-upon-Thames was the birth place of Rodney. His father, Henry Rodney, was a captain in the navy, and commanded the yatch in which George the I. used to visit his German dominions. This circumstance procured the subject of this sketch, who was a second son, the honour of having his Majesty and the Duke of Cumberland for sponsors at his christening, and at the same time led to a promise that if educated in the profession of his father, all the promotion which any merit he might display could warrant, and the interests of the service would permit, should certainly be his. Such were the high auspices under which young Rodneyentered the Navy at an early age, and after passing through the probationary stages of the service, became, in 1742, one of the lieutenants employed under Admiral Mathews, in the Mediterranean. During the course of the same year he was promoted to be captain of the Plymouth, a sixty gun ship. Returning soon after to England, he was shifted on board of the Sheerness frigate, of twenty guns, from which he was again as speedily removed into the Windsor Castle, of 44 guns. In 1746, he was employed to cruise along the Irish coast in the Eagle,

Digitized by Google

a new ship carrying 61 guns, and on that station had the fortune of capturing two privateers; the one Spanish, with 16 guns, and 120 men,—and the other French, with 22 guns and 260 men. During the following year he was attached to the squadron under Commodore Fox, which was commissioned to intercept a fleet of merchantmen on their return from Domingo, and enjoyed his full share of an easy but profitable victory. For the French were no sooner discovered in the Bay of Biscay, than they crowded all their sails in flight; and when the British still gained upon them in the chase, the men-of-war abandoned the merchantmen to their fate. Forty-eight vessels thus fell into the hands of the British, of which six were captured by Rodney.

But it was not until the defeat of Letenduer's fleet, by Admiral Hawke, that Captain Rodney laid the spirited foundation of that popularity which ultimately ennobled his name in so eminent a degree. Upon that occasion, he ran the Eagle through a tremendous fire, from the rear to the van of the enemy, and maintained an obstinate engagement with two opponents, until his braces, bowlines, and wheel, were all shot away, and his ship for a while was totally unmanageable. Yet, no sooner had he effected a partial repair of these heavy injuries, than he concurred with two other captains, in an attempt to seize upon the French Admiral and his second, who availed themselves of the favour of a dark night to escape. A distinct combat ensued; it was short and fierce, but though unsuccessful, tended highly to exalt the characters of the officers who undertook it. Peace was declared in October, 1748, and Rodney remained for an interval without a commission. During the course of a year, however, he was appointed to the Rainbow, a fourth-rate ship, and was soon after nominated Governor and Commander-in-chief of Newfoundland. Proceeding to this station, at the head of the squadron usually sent for the protection of our fisheries along the coast, he made a voyage of discovery for a small island which had recently been reported to lie about 50° N.l., and 330 leagues westward from Scilly. Rodney made a diligent cruize to determine the existence of the place, but could find no land. He relinquished his command at the usual period, and in February, 1753, married Jane, the daughter of Charles Compton, Esq., and sister of Spencer, Earl of Northampton.

Digitized by Google

From the Kent of seventy guns, in which he remained until 1755, he was appointed to the Dublin of 74 guns, in 1757, and sailed under Sir Edward Hawke on the expedition against Rochfort. Being attached during the following year to Admiral Boscawen's fleet before Louisbourg, he captured the Mount Martin, a French Indiaman of great value while on his passage out. This was his last enterprise in an inferior rank, for in June, 1759, he was raised to the flag of Rear-admiral of the Blue, and entrusted with the command of a squadron of war, and bomb ships, for the purpose of destroying a French flotilla, equipped at Havre de Grace with the open view of invading Great Britain. The dispositions which he made for carrying his orders into execution, and the manner in which he accomplished his ends, were strikingly judicious and successful. He maintained an unintermitted bombardment for two-and-fifty hours, fired the town repeatedly in different quarters, consumed the great magazine of flat boats, overset and sunk many others, and so much damaged the remainder, that they were rendered unfit for any subsequent service. The consequences of this achievement were highly important: the designs of the French were entirely frustrated, their hostile preparations all destroyed, and the port itself left almost without the capabilities for one formidable undertaking during the continuance of the war. Rodney remained on this station for nearly two years longer, and gained all the advantages which zeal and ability could ensure.

In 1761 he was chosen member of Parliament for Penryn, in Cornwall, and during the course of the same year, received the command of an expedition against the island of Martinique. Setting sail from Spithead, in the Marlborough of 74 guns, on the 18th of October, he arrived, with all the forces destined for the attack, off the bay of Cas Navire, on the 7th of January, 1762. Many difficulties were opposed to the success of the troops, both by the fortifications which had been thrown up by the enemy, and the irregular nature of the country. Bravery and perseverance, however, overcame every obstacle, the attack prospered in various quarters, and the whole island surrendered on the 12th of February. Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent, were then reduced in rapid succession, and all the French possessions in the Caribbees lay secured in the dominion of Great

Digitized by Google

Britain. Rodney came home to England, and remained for some years unemployed, in consequence of the peace of 1763. His services were rewarded with a baronetcy, in January, 1764, and he was made Governor of Greenwich Hospital, during the course of the ensuing year. In 1768, he embarked in a contested election for the borough of Northampton; but though returned by a decided majority, the money he was tempted to lay out in the struggle, and a habit of life generally expensive, embarrassed his income so much that he was unable to enjoy the triumph. Pressed by this embarrassment, he resigned his lucrative post at Greenwich, and accepted of the command of the Jamaica station, with his flag on board the Princess Amelia of 74 guns, in 1771. The governor of that island was then in a precarious state of health, and Rodney aspired to the fortune of retrieving his affairs by succeeding to this lucrative seat of power in case of a vacancy. In this hope, however, he was disappointed; the governor lived on, and he was obliged to revisit England when the usual term of his commission expired. Such was the state in which he found himself compelled to avoid the persecution of his creditors, by retiring into France, where he spent some years in great obscurity and acute distress. It is said that the government of France availed itself of his misfortunes to try and draw him from the service of his country, by offers of a large sum of money, and the first rank in the French navy. But he rejected the proposal with spirit, and was soon after enabled to regain his native country and solicit a command. It is farther reported, that the means by which he discharged the incumbrances upon his income, were disinterestedly lent to him by the Duc de Biron, who had the generosity to reward the virtue he could not seduce, by restoring it to its natural sphere of action.

However true these relations may really be, it is certain that towards the close of the year 1779, Rodney was made Admiral of the White, and appointed to the command of the Leeward Island station. He sailed from Spithead in December, on board the Sandwich of ninety guns, and discovered a fleet of merchantmen and men-of-war off Cape Finisterre, at day-break, on the 8th of January, 1780. Making signals for a general chase, he soon gained sufficiently on the strangers to perceive the Spanish colours, and by manœuvres of superior dexterity, succeeded in capturing the

Digitized by Google

whole body before one o'clock, P.M. One man of war, four frigates, two corvettes, a large sail of merchant vessels, all belonging to the Caracca Company, thus fell into his hands, and proved very valuable prizes.

Having furnished the garrison of Gibraltar with stores out of the proceeds of this little victory, Rodney proceeded to cruise along the coast of Portugal, and on the 16th of January fell in with a second Spanish squadron, consisting of fourteen ships of the line, commanded by Don Juan du Langara. The weather being hazy, and the English fleet much extended, the enemy failed to perceive the whole force opposed to them, and at first took no pains to avoid an encounter. But as the British approached nearer, the Spaniards prepared to escape, and Rodney was obliged to press every sail in order to intercept their designs. The ships engaged as they came up, and the resistance of the enemy at the beginning was brisk. About four o'clock the action was general; at five, one of the Spanish ships blew up with a tremendous explosion; two others surrendered soon after; but the contest endured until two in the morning, when the Monarca struck to the Sandwich. The fruits of this victory were the Phœnix of 80 guns, bearing the flag of Admiral Langara, the Monarca, Princessa, and Diligente, each of 70 guns, captured; the St. Domingo, also of 70 guns, blown up; and the San Julian, and San Eugenio, of 70 guns, surrendered. The gratification excited by this success was enhanced by the trifling loss with which it was acquired, for the British had only thirty-two men killed, and 120 wounded. The House of Commons and the House of Lords gave Rodney thanks for his conduct upon the occasion; the City of London presented him with the freedom of their corporation in a gold box, valued at one hundred guineas; the inhabitants of Westminster chose him one of their representatives in Parliament, at the general election which took place during the month of September, in the same year, though he was absent from England at the time, and had not solicited their suffrages; and, in November, the King nominated him a supernumerary Knight of the Bath, there being no stall vacant at the time in Henry the VII's. Chapel.

Rodney was now ordered to the West Indies, where he assumed the command of twenty sail of the line, and spent the year in

Digitized by Google

endeavouring to destroy the French fleet under Admiral Guichen. No decisive action however occurred; though many a running fight took place, and several manœuvres of considerable skill were made: the French behaved with a timed prudence, which baffled every effort to provoke a fair encounter; and in this way left the English no greater honours to gain than the maintenance of national superiority on the station. Early in the year 1781, a war with the Dutch was announced; and Rodney, receiving a reinforcement of seven sail of the line from England, was instructed to commence hostilities against the Dutch settlements in the west. An attack upon the island of St. Eustatia was accordingly determined on: a sufficient force appeared before the place on the 3d of February, and an immediate surrender was given without a blow: the booty thus seized was valued at three millions sterling, but much of the public satisfaction was alloyed by the rapacity with which the property of the unfortunate islanders was confiscated. As the autumn approached, Rodney passed over to England to recruit his health, and was made Vice-admiral of Great Britain, in the room of Lord Hawke.

But the year had not closed before he resumed his station in the West Indies. The ship in which he now carried his flag was the Formidable, of ninety-eight guns; the force under his command amounted to thirty-six sail of the line; and the French force opposed to him, under the Count de Grasse, consisted of thirty ships of the line, ten frigates, seven armed brigs, two fire-ships, and a cutter. Between these fleets two brilliant battles were fought—the first on the 9th, and the second on the 12th of April, 1782.* Signals for the former battle were made early in the morning, while the French lay in a line of battle to windward and were standing over to Guadaloupe, and while the English were in a degree becalmed under the high lands of Dominica. Some time therefore elapsed before the ships attained their stations,

* These actions caused the deaths of Lord Robert Manners, aged 24, captain of the Resolution; William Bayne, aged 50, captain of the Alfred; and William Blair, aged 41, captain of the Anson—three officers, who are commemorated together on a costly monument, erected at the public charge, by Nollekins, the sculptor, in the north transept of Westminster Abbey. The effect produced by it is imposing, and a considerable degree of talent is

Digitized by Google

but a fortunate breeze sprung up; the British, led by Sir Samuel Hood, closed with the enemy's centre, and by nine o'clock a cannonade was opened. The conflict had been hotly maintained for upwards of an hour before the leading ships of the British centre caught the wind, and were enabled to render any assistance. Some ships, however, bore up about eleven, and took a part in the action, which raged with heavy violence, until the rear of the British began to get under weigh; and then the Count de Grasse, having the advantage of the wind, betook himself to flight. It was on this day that Captain Bayne of the Alfred fell.

The British lay to for the purpose of repairing their damages during the night, and gave chase to the still retreating enemy for two successive days. On the morning of the 12th, a French man-of-war, disabled in the recent fight, and towed by a frigate, fell to leeward, and a general engagement was hazarded by De Grasse, in order to prevent her capture. The firing began at half-past seven, and was kept up with much sharpness until noon, when the wind shifted, and Captain, since Lord Gardner, made a bold but unsuccessful attempt to force the French line. Rodney, however, soon after undertook a similar movement, and enjoyed the fortune of success. Being quickly followed by other ships, he wore without delay, and doubled upon the enemy with a destructive fire. A general confusion soon ensued; the French van bore away, and endeavoured to form to leeward, but were baffled in the design by the perseverance of the British, who now hailed the division under Sir Samuel Hood, which had been becalmed all the forenoon, and saw the victory complete. At length the enemy, after a resistance of marked bravery, began to strike; one of their seventy-fours was sunk; and their admiral, on board of the Ville de Paris, being surrounded on all sides, struck down his flag with the setting sun.

manifested in various parts of the workmanship, but unfortunately the design is allegorical. The background is composed of a lofty pyramid of dark variegated marble, before which is placed a rostral column, surmounted by a statue of Fame, who elevates a wreath of laurel for the purpose of crowning three medallions, which a winged boy is attaching to the front of the column. In the foreground, Neptune, reposing on a sea-horse, addresses himself to Britannia, who appears guarded by a lion. An engraving from this monument has been given in the plate which faces the life of Newton.

Digitized by Google

Signals to bring to, and collect the prizes were then hung out; the night set in, and the enemy were completely dispersed. The Ville de Paris, of 110 guns, carrying the French Admiral and a considerable sum of money, the Glorieux, Cæsar, and Hector, of 74 guns each, and the Ardent, of 64 guns, were captured, and another ship of 74 guns was sunk.

Intelligence of this victory was received in England with enthusiastic demonstrations of joy. The admiral, his officers, and men, were honoured with votes of thanks from the two Houses of Parliament, and Rodney was raised to the peerage, and enriched with a pension of 2000*l.* a year. All these triumphs, however, had an unexpected issue. Just before the defeat of the French became known in England, the ministers, dissatisfied that no decisive action had taken place, despatched Admiral Pigot to the West Indies with a commission to supersede Rodney in his command. Pigot accordingly sailed to Port Royal, and actually displaced the victor from his fleet—a circumstance so mortifying to his feelings, that he immediately struck his flag, and vowed never again to accept of authority. He kept the resolution, and after leading a retired life for ten more years, expired in London, aged 74.

NICHOLAS ROWE.

ADJOINING the tomb of Shakspeare, in the south transept of Westminster Abbey, is a large monument, commemorative of Rowe the poet, and Charlotte, his only daughter, wife of Henry Fane, Esq. The Poet's bust is deposited upon an elevated altar, and is wept over by a female figure, large as life: the background is relieved by a pyramid, from which hangs a medallion of Mrs. Fane. Altogether it is a heavy performance, with little that is

Digitized by Google

either original in the design, or delicate in the execution of it. The bust is sufficiently expressive, though without any fine workmanship; but the figure of Sorrow looks more like a caricature than any thing else. The artist's name does not appear. Upon the front of the monument is inscribed this epitaph:—

Thy relics, Rowe, to this sad shrine we trust,
And near thy Shakspeare place thy honour'd bust:
Oh! next him skill'd to draw the tender tear,
For never heart felt passion more sincere;
To nobler sentiments to fire the brave,
For never Briton more disdain'd a slave.
Peace to thy gentle shade, and endless rest,
Bless'd in thy genius, in thy love too bless'd!
And bless'd that timely from our scene remov'd,
Thy soul enjoys that liberty it lov'd!
To these so mourn'd in death, so lov'd in life,
The childless parent, and the widow'd wife,
With tears inscribes this monumental stone,
That holds their ashes, and expects her own.

Nicholas Rowe was an author who enjoyed a very calm share of public praise while he lived, and has received a quiet meed of reputation since his death. He was descended from an estated family at Lambertown, or Lamerton, in Devonshire, who acquired their coat of arms for the bravery shown by an ancestor during the war of the Crusades. Nicholas was born at Little Beckford, in Bedfordshire, during the year 1673. His father, John, is said to be the first of the family who abandoned the easy circumstances of a country life to bustle with the world, and make money by a profession. He entered himself a student-at-law, rose to the dignity of a sergeant's coif, and distinguished himself by the publication of some volumes of Reports, in which he fearlessly pointed out the meagre authority there existed in favour of that dispensing power which James the II. so vainly wished to enforce, and his subjects so spiritedly overcame. Sergeant Rowe lies buried in the Round Church of the Inner Temple. His son, the subject of this sketch, was first sent to an academy at Highgate, and afterwards entered at Westminster School, where the quickness of his talents

Digitized by Google

so rapidly distinguished him, that he was named for a King's scholarship at the age of twelve, though not elected until fifteen. Even then, however, the distinction brought no advantage; for his father was so well pleased with his learning, that he entered him a student at the temple without any more loss of time.

During the three next years he is said to have still farther satisfied the expectations of his family, by the assiduity with which he read the statutes, and the ability with which he comprehended the laws of his country; but when only nineteen, his father died, he became his own master, and abandoned the severities of the legal profession for the lighter laurels of a poet.

His first production was the 'Ambitious Stepmother,' a play which was written at the age of 25; and though described by his biographers to have been received with great applause, is now entirely forgotten, and does not seem to merit any other fate. To this succeeded the tragedy of 'Tamerlane,' in 1702: composed at a period when political feelings were at an extreme height, it was in every line nerved to strengthen state party prejudice and gainsay partiality. Under the character of Tamerlane, he designed to personify the virtues of William the III.; and under the crimes of Bajazet to depict the tyranny of Louis the XIV. The hit took, as every hit must always take, when backed by the influence of a government, and adapted to the passions of the people; but the two leading portraitures were as absurd on the one hand as unjust on the other. The Tamerlane of history is no such an excellent personage as the Tamerlane of the stage, and William the III. can never be identified with either of them: no piece of patient perfection such as Rowe's hero, ever drew the breath of life. The comparison between Bajazet and Louis is still less real, and, because the more uncharitable, is a less excusable licence. With this play, however, Rowe is reported to have been far better pleased than with any one of his other performances. The preference, however ill founded, is to be accounted for: the vehemence with which Tamerlane was at first applauded was much greater than the juster praise bestowed on some of his other plays; and, as it laid the basis of his political distinctions, it may be easily conceived to have been always agreeable to his imagination.

Flushed with this success, the poet relaxed nothing in diligence,

Digitized by Google

and 'The Fair Penitent,' which was represented for the first time during the following year, received the tribute of possessing more appropriate beauties, and the reward of more lasting fame. The story of this tragedy is simply domestic, and deeply engaging; the versification is equable and harmonious; the moral striking, and the incidents well wrought. The character of Lothario was original to the stage, and has supplied Richardson, the novelist, with a companion in 'Clarissa,' which has been often commended as an improvement upon the first idea. One prominent fault has been found with the machinery of the piece: the fourth act concludes the fable, and, consequently, the interest of the play. With this exception 'The Fair Penitent' is still generally approved of, and often performed.

In 1706 he gave the public a drama upon the story of 'Ulysses,' which was damned at the onset, and has never since been redeemed. 'The Royal Convert' appeared in 1708, and, with better claims to favour, shared a similar fate. These were both tragedies; but an attempt which he now made in comedy only deepened the disgrace of their failure. 'The Biter' intervened between the performances just mentioned, under such circumstances of discontent, that the manager was afraid to hazard a second representation of it. Rowe, however, is reported to have differed with the audience, and thought extremely well of the composition. It is even asserted that he sat in the theatre chuckling with laughter, at what he conceived the wit of the dialogue, while the whole house resounded with hooting and hissing.

This succession of adversity damped his efforts for some years, but his next attempt was amply rewarded. 'Jane Shore,' which was first brought out in 1714, is the tragedy by which Rowe is best known to posterity; and may now be justly considered a standard piece upon the British stage. In the preface to it, he states that it is written in imitation of Shakspeare, though his commentators have all been at a loss to discover where the resemblance lies, unless it be in the barren fact, that the subject is a story of English history. Authors, however, may be allowed to deceive themselves, while they fulfil the main business of their lives, and gratify the public taste. 'Jane Shore' is often played, and always pleases: the distress is probable, and seizes upon our sympathies—we forgive the wife out of pity for her sufferings,

Digitized by Google

and approbation of her repentance, and regard the husband, because he feels as we do ourselves, and also forgives her.

There is yet another of Rowe's tragedies to be mentioned, though it never succeeded; this was 'Jane Grey.' The story had been long in the hands of Smith, the elegant author of 'Phædrus and Hippolita;' and upon his death was transmitted with his papers into the hands of Rowe. But what Smith died before he could finish, died of itself when finished by Rowe, who thenceforward wrote no more for the stage. As an author, however, he still continued active and successful. He edited an edition of Shakspeare, which Doctor Johnson, who performed the same part, thinks was better than the world supposed, or the author himself had promised. His translation of Lucan's 'Pharsalia' deserves greater notice, for it is executed in a spirit of far higher merit. The character of the original has been declared more declamatory than poetical, and more philosophical than entertaining. Rowe's versification preserves this style with singular fidelity; the versification introduces no great improvements into our language; but, if never superior to his cotemporaries, he is also never inferior to them. Deficiencies are inseparable from all translations; but after this qualification, Rowe's 'Lucan' may, without farther reservation, be pronounced an estimable acquisition to our literature.

Though Rowe lived to finish this work with the care and steadiness observable in all his productions, yet he did not survive to enjoy the satisfaction of witnessing the favourable reception it met with from the public. He died in the year 1719,—the forty-fifth of his age; and bequeathed the publication of his manuscripts to the care of his friend Dr. Welwood, who is the principal writer of his life.

Rowe was the friend of Addison and Pope, and was, moreover, distinguished by the countenance of many celebrated men, who headed the political party to which he always remained firmly attached. Steadily devoted to the pursuits of literature during his lifetime, he, nevertheless, found leisure for other services, and was esteemed a successful man of business. While the Duke of Queensbury was Secretary of State during the reign of Queen Anne, Rowe discharged the office of his under secretary with considerable reputation during a term of three years. When the place of power was changed for other ministers, he and the Whigs

Digitized by Google

were obliged to retire in discontent; but a brighter interest supervened: his political friends resumed their sway, and he was made Poet Laureate to George the I. This era constituted the climax of his elevation, and must have added considerably to his fortune; for he obtained various other appointments about the same period. Amongst these are mentioned by his biographers, a surveyorship of the customs of the port of London, a clerkship of the council of the Prince of Wales, and a secretaryship of the presentations in the Court of Chancery: thus he lived amongst the great respected, and amongst his equals regarded. His character is praised by Pope, but his heart was quarrelled with by Addison. With the world the former testimony should alone prevail; for the author of 'Cato,' though apparently sincere in his professions of religion, was a captious friend, and a jealous competitor.

MONTAGUE, EARL OF SANDWICH.

There is not, and there never has been a service so distinguished by personal daring, and so elevated by heroic exploits, as the naval profession of Great Britain. Parallel deeds of individual valour and brilliant exploits may be cited from the annals of other public bodies, which will happily vie with the celebrity of many of those acts by which the English fleet has won the honours of supremacy over the world; but no equal series of gallant evolutions, intrepid devotion, and desperate glory, unbroken for ages, and altogether uncontrolled by vicissitudes, is to be found in the history of any nation of the earth. From the first date of its gallant rise above the ocean, it usurped the deathless character it now bears; and no one conjuncture could either time or tide, the adversity of nature, or the enmity of man, inter-

Digitized by Google

pose to control its vigour, or abate its pride. Naturally enough the constellation of glowing names which contributed to this pre-eminence of success, is crowded and illustrious in the extreme: not a few ornaments of the service give interest to these volumes; and amongst the first who headed the roll will be found the subject of this sketch.

Edward, the only surviving son of Sir Sydney Montague, was born on the 27th of July, 1596, and first entered the service of his country in the Parliamentary army, which reduced Charles the I. to the scaffold, and elevated Cromwell, in his stead, to the government of the country. Though he rose rapidly to command, and acted a prominent part in many of the civil engagements of that disastrous time, still his authority was then always subordinate, and he had neither influence over, nor a share in the measures, which so brutally signalized the change of our constitution. Like many other distinguished men of that age, he became a sailor, when as a soldier his country required no assistance from his sword; and soon found the adventurous service of the ocean more congenial to the spirit of his bravery, than the tamer conflicts of the land, embittered as it was by domestic feud, and civil bloodshed. In the navy he rose to promotion, even with a greater celerity than he had already done in the army, and was early noticed with favour by the discriminating Protector. From him he received the rank of Admiral, and sailed under Blake, in his memorable expedition into the Mediterranean, with a reputation which fully sustained the confidence of the appointment.

Upon the death of Cromwell, Montague was appointed to the command of a formidable fleet, which passed into the Baltic to compose the differences of the Northern Powers, and deter them from any enterprise on behalf of the exiled Prince. The trust was successfully discharged; but some suspicions, which, in all probability, were not ill founded, of his having corresponded with Charles, obtained circulation, and he was in consequence suddenly supplanted in his office by Admiral Lawson, a rigid presbyterian, and staunch republican. The triumphant issue of General Monk's designs, however, soon replaced Montague in his former elevation; and he had the honour of being appointed to command the fleet which conveyed the restored monarch back to the throne of his ancestors. For the part he performed in this

Digitized by Google

signal measure, advancement and titles were naturally expected by him, and they were conferred with a liberal hand. He was immediately created Baron Montague, Viscount Hinchinbroke, and Earl of Sandwich; he received the order of the Garter upon the first reinvestment of that noble order, was made master of the King's wardrobe, sworn in a member of the Privy Council, and appointed Vice-admiral to the Duke of York, who filled the post of Lord High Admiral of England.

The perversity with which Charles the II. attached himself to his late patron, the King of France, and the facility with which he embarked in war to assist the ambitious views of that restless monarch, are well known facts. The first enemy, whom the English were thus called upon by their careless sovereign to fight, were the Dutch, against whom hostilities were declared in 1664. At that time, Holland, next to Britain, was the most powerful state in the world upon the seas: the Dutch, therefore, were the most honourable foes that could be opposed to our fleets. The Duke of York and Earl Sandwich commanded, and several encounters took place, in which much art and bravery were exemplified, and considerable approbation excited. On the 3d of June, however, the fleets came in sight, and a more decisive action ensued. The enemy sailed in superior strength, yet seemed rather disposed to await the opportunity of some more manifest advantage, than by giving fair battle, to risk the benefits of a more imposing circumstance. Sandwich, however, conscious of the spirit of his men, and the stability of his force, swept boldly on amongst the centre of the Dutch lines, and a general fight ensued, which the vigour of our attack soon converted into a general flight. Eighteen vessels were captured and destroyed; the enemy lost their admiral, Opdam, and the utter destruction of their maritimal power must have taken place, had the commander-in-chief followed up the pursuit with the same energy that the second in authority had originally forced it.

This victory being principally the work of Lord Sandwich, he was hailed with universal acclamation upon his return home; while popular opinion, for the contrary reason, became so adverse to the Duke of York, that he was reluctantly obliged to resign his command. Every hand pointed out the Earl of Sandwich as the most qualified successor for the vacancy thus occa-

Digitized by Google

sioned; but the influence of the Court was too strong, and the conduct of his Royal Highness was saved from the mortification of so marked a disapprobation. To divert the public from this partiality, the Earl was sent on an embassy to Madrid, in order to try and negociate a peace between the contending monarchs of Spain and Portugal; and the objects of the mission, though far from speedily attained, were, when completed, mainly attributed to his address and abilities. After a residence of thirteen months on the continent he succeeded in adjusting the affairs committed to his charge to the satisfaction of all parties concerned, and upon his return to England, in December 1668, was received with the most flattering demonstrations of royal favour, in which the Duke of York honourably concurred. He was appointed to the Presidency of a board instituted for the government of our colonies in America, and the West Indies, by which the commerce of the mother country was greatly enriched, and the pride and power of the nation considerably encreased.

Upon the death of Monk, Duke of Albemarle, the Earl of Sandwich was left without any competitor in the confidence of his country, and the affections of the fleet, and most considerately does he appear to have deserved the favour. The generous seamen are reported to have looked up to him with the warm veneration due to a father, while the officers regarded him with respectful attachment as a discriminating and impartial patron. Through these pretensions he was quickly gifted with the emphatic surname of the sailors' friend; for never would he countenance any preferment, but upon the score of service, and the proof of merit, while he always reprobated those appointments, too frequent at all times, in which the interest of the court, and the influence of a title, give the only recommendations to notice.

Such was the estimation in which the Earl of Sandwich was held, when, to the surprise of the nation, and the grief of his friends, Charles again abetted the policy of France, and, in 1672, commenced a second course of hostilities against the Dutch. The English fleet put to sea in the beginning of May, having the Duke of York again Lord High Admiral, and the Earl of Sandwich, as second in command, Admiral of the Blue. On the 28th of the same month, while anchored off Southwold, they were unexpectedly gratified by the appearance of the Dutch

Digitized by Google

fleet, and immediately slipping their cables, put to sea in order of battle. This was not long delayed, and, after the first shot, was maintained with a vigour and perseverance but seldom equalled and never surpassed. The enemy had no theme to boast in but the noble spirit with which they acquired partial advantages and momentary success, for in the result their loss was signal, and their destruction utter. The fate of Sandwich, however, deserves particular record, for it was in itself almost sufficiently grand to be styled a victory. He hoisted his flag on board the Royal James, mounting 100 guns, and carrying 800 men. In this vessel he led the van, and commenced the action with a furious attack upon the squadron commanded by Admiral Von Ghent. Some confusion occurred in his division almost at the onset, and so ill was he supported, that in a short time he was almost completely surrounded by the enemy. But the adversity of his situation only served to redouble the desperation of the conflict, and deepen the fatality of its consequences. He beat off from his sides no less than seven vessels, among which was the flag-ship of the Dutch Admiral, who fell during the engagement, when the Great Holland, of 60 guns, supported by three fire-ships, drew close upon him, and attempted to board. Though dreadfully shattered, and greatly reduced by previous exertions, Sandwich and his crew met the fresh assault with unabated devotion. He sunk the three fire-ships, and forced the man of war to retire disabled, when at length a fourth fire-ship approached, and by a more successful effort set the Royal James in flames. Hope to save her there now remained none; his crew was lessened to a comparatively scanty number, and he had but one acting officer. In this extremity he begged of the survivors to lower the boats, and make for land, at the same time declaring that he felt it his duty to remain the last man on board the ship. But the crew, with that intrepid disdain which has immortalised the character of the British sailor, positively refused to stir before their admiral, and this generous emulation of heroism was continued until the Royal James blew up, and all on board nobly perished together. The English, however, were decidedly triumphant, though their success was dearly purchased by a profuse sacrifice of men: no less than ten captains were slain during the action, and almost every vessel was riddled

Digitized by Google

with shot. Never was there an engagement marked by a more extraordinary display of obstinate bravery, or a prouder instance given of the invincible superiority of the English fleet.

About a fortnight after the engagement, a body was discovered floating among the ketches in Harwich harbour, which was soon recognised by the order on his coat to be the Earl of Sandwich. He died therefore in the 77th year of his age. It was immediately conveyed on shore, and embalmed; while the governor transmitted the George on his bosom to the King at Whitehall, and desired to learn his Majesty's pleasure. An opinion naturally prevailed, that the general merits of the deceased, and the unexampled brilliancy of the last act of his life, entitled his remains to the rites of a funeral, which should indicate the high quality of his achievements. A public interment was consequently decreed, and every circumstance of pomp was resorted to which could indicate the respect which the country felt for the memorable loss it had sustained. Removed to Deptford on board of his Majesty's yacht, the body was solemnly lowered into a sumptuous barge, and conveyed up the river to Whitehall, attended by a long train of decorated boats, filled with the King's household, the nobility, public ministers, and the resident officers of the army and navy. Arrived at the confines of the city, the Lord Mayor and Companies of London joined the procession, in their state barges, with numerous bands playing melancholy music. As the mournful little fleet advanced up the river, every flag upon its surface was respectfully lowered, and every gun along its banks discharged. Those at the Tower and at Whitehall stairs fired minute salutes until the body was landed at Westminster Bridge, whence the order of advance to the Abbey Church was marshalled on foot with imposing magnificence. Ten earls supported the pall, and every nobleman, dignitary, and person of quality in London, took his place, according to precedence, in the retinue of public mourning. The Earl's body was interred beside the coffin of the Duke of Albemarle, in a private vault, in the beautiful Chapel of Henry the VII., and his memory received every tribute which an admiring sovereign and his people could bestow, save one—there has been no monument erected to give a description of his actions, or record the particulars of his fall; and the stranger searches in vain for a stone or a letter to

Digitized by Google

indicate the narrow precincts of his grave. This neglect is to be lamented, and but ill accords with the enthusiastic gratitude with which inferior services have been commemorated, even within the venerable confines of the same walls.

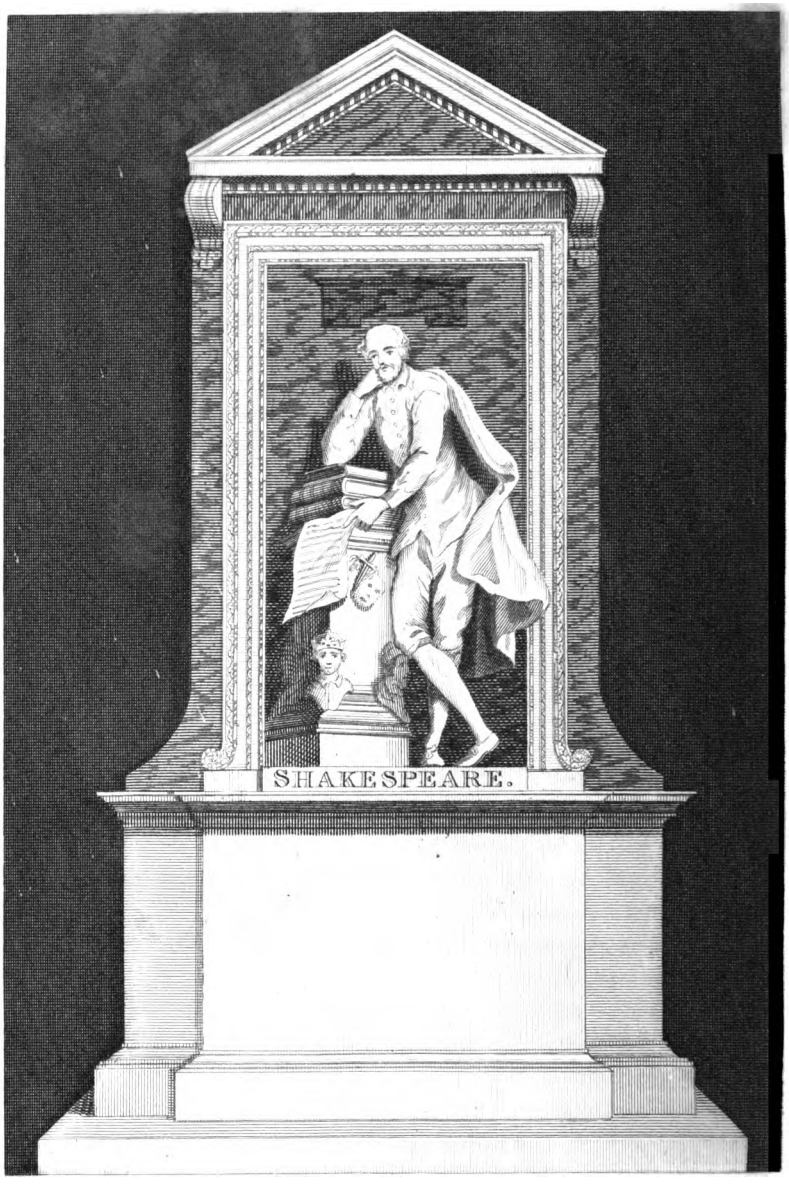
In various other writings, however, we find an adequate summary of the talents, virtues, and deserts of the Earl of Sandwich; and from these shall be supplied the deficiency just complained of, through the insertion of the following panegyrics in prose and verse:—

"He was a man adorned with all the virtues of Alcibiades, and untainted by any of his vices; of high birth, capable of any business; full of wisdom; a great commander by land as well as by sea; learned and eloquent; affable, liberal, and magnificent.

Adorn'd with titles, but from virtue great;
At sea a Neptune; Nestor in the state;
Alike in council and in fight renown'd;
In action ever with success still crown'd:
A soldier, sailor, statesman;—here he lies,
No heart more honest, and no head more wise:
Tho' brave, yet gentle; tho' sincere, not rude;
Justice in camps, and truths in court he sued.
Living he raised a deathless, spotless name,
And dying soar'd above the reach of fame.
Reader! if English, stop the falling tear,
Grief should not wait on him who felt no fear:
He wants no pity—could his ashes speak,
These generous sounds would from the marble break:
"Go, serve thy country, while God spares thee breath,
Live as I lived, and so deserve my death!"

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google



LONDON

Published by John Williams, 44 Paternoster Row.
July 1826

Digitized by Google

WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE.

THE monument which testifies the genius of Shakspeare in Westminster Abbey, was erected in 1741, out of the receipts from two benefits, played for the purpose, at each of the Theatres Royal, and the additional contributions of eminent men, among whom the Earl of Burlington, Pope, Garrick, &c. took the lead. It consists of a full-sized statue, leaning on a pillar in a pensive humour, with a scroll in front, on which are inscribed his own immortal lines, descriptive of our fugitive mortality.

> The cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces,
> The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
> Yea, all which it inherits, shall dissolve,
> And like the baseless fabric of a vision
> Leave not a wreck behind.

The pedestal is decorated with the crowned heads of Henry the V., Richard the II., and Queen Elizabeth. The design, which was happily drawn by Kent, affects to preserve the bard, his person, dress, and air, as faithfully as it is possible to collect such peculiarities from the memorials transmitted to posterity. The execution of the work, which displays no mean talents, was confided to the chisel of Scheemakers.

William Shakspeare, beyond all question the finest dramatic genius that ever lived, was born at Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, on the 23d of April, 1564. His father was originally a dealer in wool, of reputable circumstances, until the expenses of a large family, ten in number, of which our bard was the first-born, so thoroughly consumed his substance, that he failed in business, and was compelled to earn a poor subsistence by trading

Digitized by Google

as a butcher. Before the period of these reverses had arrived, William received a short and very imperfect course of instruction at the free-school of his native town, was initiated in the wool trade, and, the more securely to steady the wildness of youth to the regularity of mercantile age, was married, at the early age of eighteen, to Anne the daughter of a substantial yeoman, named Hathaway.

Whatever were the precautions adopted, or the prospects afforded, that Shakspeare would prove a sober, punctual, and creditable tradesman, he soon fell among companions the most likely to destroy, as they speedily did, the fair fruits of every flattering promise. These were a set of unrestrained young men, whose greatest sport it was, during the day, to hunt down a deer, in the neighbouring park of Sir Thomas Lucy, and at night, to relish their mugs of ale with a rasher of predatory venison. Their excursions were carried on to such an extent, that at last the knight gave out threats of a prosecution, which Shakspeare retorted, on behalf of his fellows, with a long lampoon, in the measure of a ballad: this effusion, perhaps not much to the loss of the world of letters, has ever been preserved. It seems, however, to have incensed the one party, and emboldened the other, and proceedings were commenced with so much rigor that Shakspeare was compelled to fly from home in order to escape the degradation of legal punishment. But the lapse of futurity gave him the satisfaction of a signal revenge; the matchless character of Sir John Falstaff was drawn as a satire upon Sir Thomas Lucy; and, as such, applauded by all the country. That the knight exhibited something more than common severity at the first instance, was generally thought in the neighbourhood of Stratford; and that the poet has more than retaliated the spirit, both principal and interest, no one has ever denied.

And here, with these meagre particulars of his early years, and about as many more upon the incidents of his declining age, closes the sum of all the information which Great Britain possesses of the most extraordinary genius it ever bred. It is pleasing to think, that the little we do know of him, has for the most part been preserved for us by the kind memory of his town's folk: London, though it enjoyed his presence, and admired his art, during the

Digitized by Google

longer portion of his lifetime, has been less grateful to his name. Neither the order in which his plays were written, nor the periods at which they were originally performed, has been ascertained; it is even impossible to say which was the first, or which was the last, either acted or composed; and, what is still worse, several of the most diligent commentators have expressed repeated doubts upon the fact, that all the plays commonly circulated under his name, were ever written by him. It is reasonable to believe, that he began his career, as an author, before 1592; and it is almost certain, that the first edition of his plays appeared in folio, during the year 1616.

Shakspeare's first place of resort, upon arriving in London, under the circumstances already mentioned, was the theatre at the Bankside, in the Borough, on the boards of which he was received, probably, as an inferior actor. The line of characters he personated is unknown; and the highest part he has been traced to, is that of the Ghost in his own admirable 'Hamlet.' His celebrity must have risen considerably, for he was frequently visited at the theatre by Queen Elizabeth, at whose command the 'Merry Wives of Windsor' was written, in order to exhibit Falstaff in love. The unfortunate Earl of Essex, and his attached friend, the Earl of Southampton, are mentioned as his particular patrons; the latter of whom, according to Sir William D'Avenant, made him the magnificent present of a thousand pounds, for the purpose of enabling him to make the purchase of the theatre, in which he obtained an exclusive license during the reign of King James the First.

Gentle manners, a kind disposition, and witty conversation, have been unexceptionably described as the leading traits of Shakspeare's character. One anecdote strongly in support of the truth of this relation has been currently credited: when Ben Jonson, at that time utterly unknown, offered his first play to the theatre, the managers were about to reject it with an ill-natured answer; but Shakspeare fortunately cast his eye upon it, and was so well pleased with what he saw at a first glance, that he took the manuscript home, read it, approved of it, and at once recommended both Jonson and his writings to the public.

The close of Shakspeare's life drew near in the manner which every man of sense will desire his to follow—retired at his ease,

Digitized by Google

and in competence, amidst a circle of his friends. Whatever may have been the frailties of his early days, he had the prudence to save a respectable fortune from the exertions of his maturer years, with which he returned to his native town, and bought a house and land, upon which he lived till his death: the residence was called New Place. He had the satisfaction of seeing two out of his three daughters decently married; a third died single; and, though the others left children, yet the family soon became extinct.

The pleasurable wit and amiable good-humour for which Shakspeare was eminent, naturally obtained for him an acquaintance with the gentry of the neighbourhood, which, once established, was soon confirmed by friendship. Of such intimacies a story is still preserved about Stratford, at the cost of one Mr. Combe, an old man, noted for his wealth and usury, with whom Shakspeare was very intimate. It happened one evening, amidst their common friends, that Combe observed in a laughing way, that he fancied Shakspeare meant to write his epitaph in the event of survivorship, and as it would be impossible for the subject of it to know what might be said of him after death, he desired the thing might be settled forthwith. Upon which Shakspeare called for a pen, and wrote these four verses, the satire of which is said to have stung the miser so bitterly, that he never could forget the night's pastime, nor forgive the chief actor in it:—

Ten in the hundred lies here *ingraved*;
'Tis a hundred to ten his soul is not saved:
If any man ask, who lies in this tomb?
Oh! oh! quoth the Devil, 'tis my John a Combe.

Shakspeare died on his birth-day, in the 53d year of his age, and was buried in the north chancel of the great church at Stratford, where a good bust was placed to his memory. On the grave-stone beneath appear these doggerel lines:—

Good friend, for Jesus' sake forbear
To dig the dust enclosed here:
Blessed be the man who spares these stones,
And cursed be he that moves my bones.

Digitized by Google

Besides his plays, a small volume of Shakspeare's miscellaneous poems has been collected; the chief among which are 'Venus and Adonis,' and 'Tarquin and Lucrece.' This book, though altogether inferior in character and beauties to his other works, yet, can seldom be read without pleasure, or spoken of without praise.

The character of Shakspeare and his writings has always deservedly been, and always must remain, pre-eminently exalted. He is not only the finest tragic poet England has ever produced, but the most original genius the world has ever beheld. He could not borrow from any other language, antient or modern, for he was only conversant with his mother tongue; and, far from imitating the few crude examples he had in his own country, he raised a model of truth and nature, to which no time or place has hitherto apportioned an equal. Nothing in the history of the human mind can be compared to the rude darkness of the stage, when Shakspeare first trod it, and the unquenchable brightness he shed around its scenes before he left its boards. It is also curious to mention, that he never blotted a line, nor inserted an amendment; it was with his mind, as with his manners; he overlooked his vices in the ungovernable conviction of his virtues. His mind was sublime and overreaching; his fancy brilliant and inexhaustible; his expression infinite. If but little versed in human learning, he was the deeper skilled in the source of every knowledge—nature! All he did know, he had taught himself, and thus was the master of his own powers. Well may the student of Shakspeare's life and writings observe, in the homely terms of an old panegyrist:—

——his works are such
As neither man or Muse can praise too much:—

or exclaim more emphatically, in his own melancholy words—

"We ne'er shall look upon his like again!"

Digitized by Google

GRANVILLE SHARP.

GRANVILLE SHARP has been deservedly honoured with multiplied memorials of gratitude and honour, as the father of many principles, which have elevated the character of modern liberty to an unprecedented chastity of feeling. His family has attained distinction in the established Church: his father, Dr. Thomas Sharp, was a Prebendary of Durham; and his great grandfather, Dr. J. Sharp, was Archbishop of York. Granville was born at Durham, during the year 1734, and received the rudiments of education at the grammar-school of that city. In the spring of 1750 he arrived in London, and was bound apprentice to a linen-draper on Great Tower Hill; but, after a service of three years, his master, one Halsey, died, and he changed his station once or twice, in consequence of some conflicting judgments in the Lord Mayor's Court, upon the subject of the remaining period of his apprenticeship, which was concluded in the factory of Bourke and Co., Irish merchants, in Cheapside. His first master was a Quaker; his second, an Independent; the Irishmen were Catholics; and some other person with whom he lived, appeared, according to Mr. Sharp's report, to have no religion at all. This experience, he was afterwards accustomed to say, early taught him to make proper distinctions between the religious opinions of men and their actions.

Sharp was a controversialist, even in his boyhood: he carried on disquisitions with singular freedom and spirit, not only with the different masters under whom he lived, but with the domestics in their several establishments. In order to prosecute this warfare with success, he read much, and in the issue became as remarkable for his learning as his philanthropy. Thus a dispute with a

Digitized by Google

Unitarian who quoted Greek, determined him to study that language; and soon after, an altercation with a Jew encouraged him to become a master of Hebrew, on which tongue, as connected with the interpretation of the Pentateuch, he has published some critical pamphlets.

In 1757, the demise of his mother put him in possession of some ready money, and the interest of his family procured a subordinate situation for him in the Ordnance Office. It was under circumstances humble as these that his attention was first directed to a question which ultimately struck the chains of slavery from the limbs of millions, and wiped one of the most disgraceful uncertainties from the books of English law. This, too, was the noble achievement of an individual as nearly powerless as he was private. Passing through the streets of London, Granville Sharpe was one day struck with the miserable figure of a negro, trembling with want and sickness, and scarcely strong enough to beg for charity from the crowded passengers. Moved by the picture of misery, he stopped to enquire the poor fellow's story, and heard that he was a slave from Virginia, abandoned by the master who brought him to this country, because the change of climate had destroyed his health, and rendered him unequal to labour. The man's name was Somerset: being conveyed to Bartholomew's Hospital, he was there attended through the wants of his sickness, and upon his recovery provided with a decent situation, by the attention of Mr. Sharp.

But the labours of charity only made the slave again valuable to his inhuman master, who seized upon him as his property, and had him committed to prison as a runaway. The negro in this distress applied to his former benefactor, who immediately resorted to the Lord Mayor; and the consequence of the investigation between the parties, at the Mansion-House, was a declaration from his lordship that Somerset was free. But the master was still bent on his purpose; he seized the slave by the collar, and impudently forced him towards his ship, declaring that he would sail without delay. Mr. Sharp was not remiss in claiming the protection of the law for the injuries of the sufferer: he prosecuted the master for an assault, and brought the slave by a writ of Habeas Corpus before the twelve judges, who after repeated hearings, and various sittings, at last solemnly and

Digitized by Google

unanimously declared, on the 7th of February, 1772, that "the power of slavery was in England acknowledged by no law, and can never be supported;" on the contrary, "that as soon as any slave sets his foot upon British ground, he is free!" The merit of this intrepid perseverance and firm benevolence could not fail to excite the deepest impressions. From this moment slavery became the unceasing object of Sharp's honourable enmity; and every act that could enlarge the principles of universal freedom, the passion of his studies. With these feelings he published his tract, entitled 'A Representation of the Injustice of Slavery in 1779,' and soon after collected a number of the deserted negroes, who were then begging about the purlieus of London, sent them back to Africa, and thus led to the establishment of our colony at Sierra Leone. Two institutions of the most laudable nature, and important services, resulted from these exertions! 'The Society in opposition to the Slave Trade,' was founded in 1787, and Granville Sharp being father of the cause was elected Chairman of the Committee. Some years afterwards the African Institution was established, and Mr. Sharp was chosen a director.

From this series of prosperity it is necessary to revert a little for the purpose of stating, that at the commencement of our unfortunate struggle with the Independence of the American States, Sharp resigned his post in the Ordnance rather than be concerned, even in that distant capacity, either with any men, or any measures, that might tend to depress the cause of freedom throughout the world. This act, under existing circumstances, was in him one of peculiar devotion; for the expenses of his repeated suits at law, in the case of Somerset, had nearly exhausted his personal fortune; and almost his only prospects of competence lay in the emoluments of his office. These, however, he had the spirit not to admit into competition with his principles, and the protector of the helpless stood forward before the world in want of assistance himself. For many years after this event, he was necessitated to live with his brothers, who entertained him with infinite cordiality and affection.

In 1780, he was left a small legacy by a female relation; and this second beginning of independence was in the course of a few years augmented by the bequests made to him on some other

Digitized by Google

deaths in his family. Amongst those he had to regret was a brother, whose business he managed for the widow during a term of six years; after which, the concern was advantageously disposed of. He then took up his residence in the Temple, and devoted himself, without any interruption, to a life of deep study and active philanthropy. In this character he acquired the highest reputation; he proved himself an able linguist, profoundly read in divinity, and critically acquainted with the languages in which the different portions of the Scripture were originally written. His way of living in other respects may be judged of by the representation of his friends, who state, that in his actions severely moral, and in his habits strictly temperate, he was sprightly in conversation, exquisitely fond of music, and much attached to polite society.

But, notwithstanding the decided merits of this eulogy, a line of conduct and a narrowness of mind remain to be noticed, by which, in the opinion of many, Mr. Sharp has blemished the general purity of his life with the red stain of bigotry. In the many warm services he had rendered to the various Bible Societies, he had occasionally betrayed a want of that universal toleration in religious matters, which he so ardently strove to extend to all civil concerns. But a period arrived, when he gave a more decided proof of this inconsistency: liberal and just as he would be to the human body, he at last declared, that he would make up for the licence by the severity with which he would restrain the human mind and conscience. With these feelings, when the ruffianly cry of No Popery revived the tumult of old alarms in the year 1813, Mr. Sharp forgot the unreserved generosity of his general views, and headed that worst of all factions, a religious faction, and, on the 7th of July, became chairman of the Protestant Union. Certain it is, that the nature and circumstances of his education and connexion strongly attached him to the theological doctrines of the established church of England; but this part might well have been preserved, without either detriment to the sincerity of his belief, or the zeal of his devotion, by shunning all vicious contact with party, who, though they only professed exclusion, yet really involved, in the manners and maxims of their pursuit, all the terrors of persecution. Charity is the gentle mother of toleration; and no religion, however benevolent

Digitized by Google

in other doctrines, can be perfect without that virtue. A man is answerable to the law of society for his actions; but, for his opinions, he is only responsible to that Being which moulded his powers, and left free the propensities of his mind. Akin with this antipathy against admitting the Catholics to a proper share in the blessings of a constitution, which they were the first to found, and are always foremost to defend, was a strange notion entertained by him, that all the evil of life was immediately the result of an agency, which the devil maintained amongst mankind. Superadded to this infatuation was a conviction drawn from a heated explanation of the Scriptures, that the millennium was about to be consummated, without intervention or delay. But these exceptions, from a character of general distinction and virtue, are perhaps more to be regretted than censured with any excessive asperity; for the inconstant incidents of human existence have over and over again made it palpably evident, that neither sense nor learning, strength of mind, nor goodness of heart, will at all times secure us from the excesses of burning zeal, or the delusions of exalted imagination.

The termination of the life of a good man now drew on, and he completed his career with amiable resignation and equanimity. The decay of his strength had been gradual, and without suffering, and the final exhaustion of his breath ensued without a struggle or a sigh. He died and was buried at Fulham, where a modest tablet in the north side of the church attests the place of his grave. The African Institution subsequently erected a tablet with a bust in profile to his memory in Westminster Abbey, of which the execution was entrusted to Chantry, and the composition of the following epitaph to William Smith, Esq., the member for Norwich:—

Sacred to the Memory of
GRANVILLE SHARP,
ninth son of Dr. Thomas Sharp,
Prebendary of the Cathedrals and Collegiate Churches of York,
Durham and Southwell,
And grandson of Dr. John Sharp, Archbishop of York.
Born and educated in the bosom of the Church of England,
He ever cherished for her institutions the most unshaken regard,

Digitized by Google

while his whole soul was in harmony with the sacred strain—
"Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will towards men—"
On which his life presented one beautiful comment
of glowing piety and unwearied beneficence.
Freed by competence from the necessity, and by content from the desire, of lucrative occupation,
He was incessant in his labours to improve the condition of mankind.
Founding public happiness on public virtue,
He aimed to rescue his native country from the guilt and inconsistency
of employing the arm of Freedom to rivet the fetters of Bondage,
and established for the Negro race, in the person of SOMERSET,
the long-disputed rights of human nature.
Having in this glorious cause triumphed over the combined resistance
of Interest, Prejudice, and Pride.
He took his post among the foremost of the honourable band
associated to deliver AFRICA from the rapacity of EUROPE,
By the abolition of the Slave Trade.
Nor was Death permitted to interrupt his career of usefulness,
till he had witnessed that act of the British Parliament
by which the ABOLITION was decreed.
In his private relations he was equally exemplary:
and having exhibited through life a model of disinterested virtue,
he resigned his pious breath into the hands of his Creator,
in the exercise of charity, faith, and hope,
On the sixth day of July, A. D. MDCCCXIII. in the Seventy-eighth year of his Age.

READER!
If,
on perusing this tribute to a private individual,
Thou shouldest be disposed to suspect it as partial, or to censure it as diffuse,
know that it is not panegyric, but history.
Erected by the AFRICAN INSTITUTION of London, A.D. MDCCCXVI.

Digitized by Google

RIGHT HONOURABLE RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN, M.P.

THE family of the Sheridans has inherited genius from Nature in lineal entail. The Rev. Dr. Thomas Sheridan, the friend of Dean Swift, is commemorated by the first men of his time as a classical master of high repute and deep learning. He is represented to us as a man singularly ill-starred, but eminently good-humoured; a fiddler and a wit, who kept his pen and violin incessantly in motion.

Dr. Sheridan translated the Satires of Persius, and the Philoctetes of Sophocles. After remaining at the head of a school for some time with great success, he sold his interest in it for 400*l.* and soon ran through the money; then exchanged his living, got cheated, and at last died, as he had lived, totally careless of monied matters. His son, Thomas, added much to the literary character of the family, but little or nothing to its stock of prudence or economy. He was educated at Westminster School, and preferred by the honest dint of talent to a king's scholarship; but, unable to retain the advantages of this elevation from want of the moderate sum of 14*l.* for fees, he was obliged to forego the chances of preferment, and return to Ireland. There, however, he succeeded in graduating at Trinity College, Dublin, and, as the readiest means of distinction and emolument within his contracted reach, adopted the stage for a profession. The powerful influence of his fellow-students rapidly applauded him into public favour; and his own assiduity retained the meed as soon as it was conferred. He became, in quick succession, the principal performer, manager, and proprietor of the Dublin Theatre; and held his office for eight years, under every circumstance of

Digitized by Google

personal and popular advantage, until a political ferment destroyed his house, and drove him from the country.

This misfortune occurred in 1754, when he brought forward Miller's translation of Voltaire's 'Mahomet.' A strong party was at that time opposed to the Court, who snatched up every line in which liberty was alluded to, and encored it with vociferation, as a triumphant application to the asserted corruption of the ministerial party. The manager, unwilling to make his theatre the scene of political reprobation, expunged the bold passages, and thereby provoked additional outcries. The audience demanded the favourite lines, and hooted the actors from the stage, who, fearful for their own favour, hinted that they were restricted from complying with the wishes of the house. Upon this information, Sheridan was called for; but refusing to appear, the theatre was utterly demolished, amidst the loudest asseverations that he never again should be permitted to appear on the Dublin stage.

During this moment of adversity, a pamphlet, written in his favour by a lady, made its appearance, which so struck his attention, that he solicited an introduction to the authoress, a Miss Chamberlain, and ultimately, by one and the same accident, lost a theatre and gained a wife. After vainly attempting the institution of a large classical school, he came over to England, with a family of three sons. Here he quickly added to his former reputation by occasional performances at the principal theatres, and more particularly by a series of rhetorical lectures, delivered with great applause at Oxford, Cambridge, and in London. Thomas Sheridan is farther to be remembered as the compiler of an English Pronouncing Dictionary: his lady also put in a very favourable claim to literary distinction by her 'Sydney Biddulph,' a novel; 'Nourjahad,' an oriental tale; and the comedies of the 'Discovery,' the 'Dupe,' and the 'Trip to Bath.'

Of these intellectual parents, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, born in Dorset-street, Dublin, was the third son. After imbibing the elements of education under his mother, he was transferred to a private academy, kept by Mr. White, in Grafton-street, Dublin. When his mother surrendered him to this his first master, she pronounced him an impenetrable dunce; and it was a curious

Digitized by Google

circumstance, that, extraordinary as his powers were subsequently proved to be, he attained no distinction while a school boy. In 1762 he was sent to Harrow, where he fagged his part, incorrigibly indifferent to all emulation, and acquired just enough of rote learning to escape the cat. The brightness of his eye, and the vivacity of his manners, conciliated a general regard: his masters, Dr. Sumner and Dr. Parr, were early satisfied that his mind was cast in no ordinary mould, but, though a latent talent was discovered, it was not developed, and neither art nor persuasion availed to lay open the energies of his mind.

Being taken from Harrow before he attained his eighteenth year, he is supposed to have had his taste polished, and his intimacy with the classical authors of England guided by irregular but able lessons from his father. The limited means of the family precluded the benefit of an entrance into either of the Universities; but he was made a student of law at the Temple, and early inspired to seek fame in literature. These adverse circumstances, however, far from constituting a matter of regret, ought, perhaps, to demand our congratulation; for had not Sheridan been forced into exertion by the most imperious of impulses, the age, in all probability, would never have received the illustration of his genius. One of his first literary efforts, the first too that ever met the light of print, was a translation of the Greek poems of Aristænetus, written in conjunction with a former school fellow, named Halhed, during the year 1770, and published without any success, by Wilkie, of St. Paul's Churchyard, in 1771. Two more projects were soon after entered into by the same firm;—the first an opera, in three acts, upon the model of Midas, and to be called 'Jupiter;' and the second, a literary periodical, which Sheridan wished to call 'Hernan's Miscellany, and Halhed the Reformer.' But the opera was never finished, and only one paper of the periodical was composed, when Sheridan, now just passed twenty-one, fell upon a train of events which wrought an essential change in his affairs.

Visiting Bath with his father, in 1772, he first saw Miss Linley, the celebrated theatrical singer, and daughter to the well-known musical composer of the same name. This lady is painted to us by her cotemporaries, as no less admirable for the accomplishments of a liberal education than for the charms of a captivating

Digitized by Google

person, and the powers of an exquisite voice. Once introduced to her, Sheridan began to love; and as he told the story of his passion with the most assiduous ardour, it is easy to conceive how a girl of eighteen received a handsome suitor, distinguished for a conciliating address, and most engaging manners. But there were far greater obstacles than maiden reserve to be surmounted: Mr. Linley felt no disposition to countenance an alliance utterly destitute of fortune; and the prospects of the suit were far from cheering, until other circumstances produced an additional excitement, which soon set every thought of prudence at defiance.

In the train of Miss Linley's numerous admirers was a Mr. Mathews, well known as a man of fashion and fortune. To him a paragraph in the newspapers, reflecting upon the intimacy between Sheridan and Miss Linley, was traced through the printer; and a duel, marked by great skill and courage, immediately took place between the rival lovers. Sheridan disarmed his adversary, and compelled him to sign a retraction of the obnoxious paragraph; and this apology was inserted in the same newspaper which had first conveyed the calumny to the public. Mathews, however, made this publication a ground for fresh quarrel; and a second meeting, under high circumstances of irritation, ensued. Their pistols discharged without effect, the parties attacked each other with swords; the struggle was fierce and equal, until an attempt made by Sheridan to disarm his adversary obliged him to close; and they both fell, with their blades broken by the shock. Mathews, as the stronger man, had now so palpably the advantage, that he called upon the other to beg for his life;—the answer was, "I scorn it;" and they continued to mangle each other, until Sheridan lay exhausted with wounds, the dangerous appearance of which suggested but few hopes for life.

A confinement of several weeks, however, restored his health, and his gallantry and love were rewarded by a matrimonial excursion to the Continent. Returning to London, he lived for a time in Orchard-street, Oxford-street, where the absence of fortune and employment soon reduced him to a state of great embarrassment. Nothing, however, could induce him to suffer his wife to pursue her profession, and receive the wages of the

Digitized by Google

public; the proprietors of the Pantheon offered her 1000*l.* for a performance of twelve nights, and 1000*l.* more for a benefit—a splendid means of liquidating the pressing demands there were upon his empty purse; but he rejected every overture of the kind with fixed disdain. Conscious of his own capacity, he resolved to owe his support solely to himself; and the comedy of the 'Rivals,' represented for the first time on the 17th of January, 1775, was a noble earnest of all that followed. Its original success was marred by some disapprobation, which was conjectured to have proceeded from the imperfect conception which Lee Lewis had of the broad humour of Sir Lucius O'Trigger. But Sheridan quickly penetrated the feeling of the audience, and soon after brought the comedy forward with alterations, which established his maiden production in general favour. To this day it keeps a fast hold of the stage, and is ever likely to retain it; yet the performance is more the sketch of juvenile fancy than a copy of real life. The combination of characters, however, is powerfully contrasted; while the variety of incidents detailed, and the diversity of interest created, are striking and consistent.

The farce of 'The Scheming Lieutenant, or, St. Patrick's Day,' was Sheridan's next dramatic performance. It was written in forty-eight hours, for the benefit of Clinch, whose representation of the character of Sir Lucius O'Trigger had given unqualified satisfaction to the author and the public. Encouraged by reputation and wealth, Sheridan proceeded in the composition of the 'Duenna,' an opera, in which the musical talents of his father-in-law, Linley, were happily combined with his own expanding powers. The reception of this piece was truly splendid; and it is still estimated in the dramatic circles as the best specimen ever produced upon the British stage in that happy style of art, which the 'Rosamond' of Addison first introduced Gay's 'Beggar's Opera,' permanently established among us. With these, its only competitors, in point of popularity, are 'Artaxerxes,' 'The Maid of the Mill,' and 'Love in a Village.' The music of Arne in Artaxerxes is beyond competition the finest produced on our theatres; but the superiority of the 'Duenna,' in plot, wit, character, and style, must be indisputably evident to all who read or see it.

The profits which Sheridan derived from the representation of

Digitized by Google

these different plays, though never ascertained, may be inferred from the expensive ease in which he began to live, and the fashionable hospitality for which he now grew conspicuous. His acquaintance was courted by the wealthy and titled, and his home frequented by all that was brilliant in humour, and vigorous in mind. In 1776 he became proprietor of Drury-lane, in conjunction with Dr. Ford, and his father-in-law, and was introduced by Dr. Johnson, with a flattering eulogy, to the celebrated Literary Club in Gerard-street, Soho. It was about this period too that he got to be particularly intimate with Mr. Fox. Burke, who knew his father well, in all probability was acquainted with him upon his first arrival in London; but it is certain that henceforward the brilliant trio were distinguished companions. Indeed, a more talented array of friendship, marked at almost every step with personal interest and national importance, the world never saw before, and is but little likely to behold again.

The year 1777 was the completion of Sheridan's dramatic fame: his first work for the season was the alteration of Vanbrugh's comedy, 'The Relapse,' into the 'Trip to Scarborough;' but, though he was admitted to have improved the dialogue, he found no fortune in the adaptation. The 'School for Scandal' was next produced, and elicited the most enthusiastic acclamation. The rage for sing-songs, pantomime, and pageantry, was happily checked by the appearance of a play stamped with an inimitable character; good sense and fine humour retouched the taste of the public; the 'School for Scandal' took its rank at the head of the standard entertainments of the British stage, and Richard Brinsley Sheridan was unanimously approved the first comic poet of the eighteenth century. Such were the flattering feelings of his cotemporaries, and their voices have since been amply confirmed. In fertility of wit, and felicity of expression, vigorous personification, and just distinction, natural incident, and a free moral, the 'School for Scandal' is universally considered one of the very best plays in our language.

'The Camp,' and 'The Critic,' were his next performances, of which the first added most to his purse, and the latter to his repute for a wit. In 1779 his predecessor, Garrick, died, and he honoured his memory with a monody, which was spoken by Mrs. Yates. Standing nearly as high as he could reach in this

Digitized by Google

career, his active spirit now turned for distinction to a more elevated scene. Mr. Fox had already introduced him to the leaders of his political association; and, as a new election was about to ensue, proposed that he should be returned for one of the boroughs belonging to the party. To this arrangement the noble Lord, in whose nomination the right of the patronage lay, objected, that, high as the genius of the applicant was, still its bias did not appear favourable to the ordeal of parliamentary distinctions. Sheridan, however, was emboldened by a different impulse, and addressing his views, with confidence, to some intimate friends resident at Stafford, was highly approved of by the electors, and returned in 1780 to the House of Commons.

For the success which crowned Sheridan's exertions in parliament, a far brighter meed of praise is merited than for the happiness of his theatrical efforts. He was the only man of transcendent talents who for many years had devoted himself to compose for the stage, and he far surpassed his competitors in every pretension that can lead to excellence in the vocation. For the stage, he had no rivals; but in parliament, the case was widely different. There he had both to emulate and oppose men, whose genius was not only of the first order, but who had been long trained to exercise their capacities by the most moving resources of arduous experience. Hence it came to be remarked, that though no statesman in either house surpassed him in ability, yet he was unequal to many in information. No member spoke with greater ingenuity, wit, vigour, and eloquence; but several addressed themselves to the subject more argumentatively and justly. When the ministry changed, in 1782, Sheridan was appointed Under Secretary of State to his friend Mr. Fox. Retiring with his party from office, he succeeded, upon their return to power, to the post of Treasurer of the Navy, and obtained a seat in the Privy Council. Of the two most unpopular measures on which his party were injudicious enough to make a stand, Sheridan is said to have had the discrimination of foreseeing the disastrous predicament that came to pass. Allusion is made to Mr. Fox's India Bill, and the coalition with Lord North; from both of which, it has been affirmed, he was decidedly averse.

The benches of the parliamentary Opposition are generally as fertile in the resources of eloquence, as they are barren of all

Digitized by Google

other fortune. On them the reputation of Mr. Sheridan's oratory became so great, that only three names can be ranked before his—those of Fox, Burke, and Pitt, and they surpassed the age in which they lived: Grattan became a member of the English legislature at a subsequent period. The first speech by which Sheridan attained any celebrity, was pronounced in favour of Mr. Fox's India Bill. His opposition to Mr. Pitt's Perfumery-tax, established his reputation for happy point and light raillery; but the trial of Warren Hastings, for which he was one of the managers, presented the opportunities from which he snatched his brightest laurels. His address upon the third charge, "for money corruptly and illegally taken," was extremely rich and powerful. His examination of Mr. Middleton exhibited an uncommon display of acuteness and information; but his summing up of the evidence on the Begum charge far eclipsed all competition. It was an uninterrupted torrent of eloquence, for five hours, and was acknowledged, by friends and adversaries, to constitute the most perfect combination of argument and oratory ever delivered within the walls of Parliament. So replete was it with every feeling that could agitate, every art that could win, and every force that could control the mind, that when he ceased to speak, the House rose with three distinct bursts of applause, and declared itself unequal to the impartiality of a judicial proceeding, whilst the effects of the harangue lay fresh on every mind.

The zealous attachment subsisting between Sheridan and Mr. Fox, made him a firm supporter of every principle which has immortalized his party, and a warm advocate of every proposition by which that great parliamentary leader sought to oppose the progress of our war against the French Revolutionists. Undeviating from this line, he resigned, amongst other valuable friendships, that one he had long enjoyed with Burke. In the popular steps which were also taken out of Parliament at this period, he took an active share, was a constant attendant at the Whig Clubs, and frequently exercised his eloquence at the public meetings of the day, with a force and energy which even rivalled the greatest of his parliamentary efforts. The various connexions thus unavoidably established, made him a principal witness on all the state trials which created such intense interest amidst an obnoxious people. Amongst the number of essential measures in the Senate, which

Digitized by Google

he either directly proposed, or helped to discuss those connected with the question of the Regency, the Mutiny at the Nore, and the Irish Union, are the most conspicuous, either for public interest or personal distinction. Few acts of his life endeared him more to his native country than the powerful opposition he gave to the last of those three vital questions: and well was he entitled to gratitude; for, among the host of geniuses who raised up their warning voices against it, there was no protest which surpassed Sheridan's in brilliant energy. The fourth part of a century has now elapsed since that policy was finally enforced, and no man can say that the objects it purposed, or the benefits it promised, have been realized; a distressing fact, which gives some corroboration to the propriety of the signal opposition made to the proceeding.

Nearly twenty years had thus elapsed, during which Sheridan had often promised, yet never once produced, any thing for the theatre. At length he brought forward, in 1799, his tragedy of 'Pizarro,' from the German of Kotzebue. In forming our judgment of this play, one material circumstance must not be overlooked, and that is, that Sheridan had long been manager of Drury Lane Theatre. That he must have been most fully persuaded of the faults of his original, there can be few to doubt; and that it was interest which led him to turn the general partiality for Kotzebue to a personal account, every one will readily admit. In writing 'Pizarro,' his sole object must have been to gratify the prevailing taste of the town, and fill the coffers of the theatre; and certainly there was a great deal of ingenuity exhibited in combining together in one piece so many objects of popular taste. 'Pizarro,' if not a worthy specimen of his dramatic genius, in comparison with his former efforts, may at least claim the praise of great managerial dexterity. It enjoyed a run of the most enviable success, and remains to this day a standing play of general attraction. The 'School for Scandal' procured, by intrinsic value, both honour and wealth for the author; 'Pizarro,' by a happy subserviency to the prepossessions of the public, obtained still greater emolument for the proprietor of the house.

In 1806, the death of Mr. Fox occasioned a vacancy in the representation of Westminster, and Sheridan was the only man looked up to as a worthy successor to the post so long and ably

Digitized by Google

filled by that great statesman. He was therefore proposed in opposition to the unfortunate Mr. Paull; but was far removed from a prospect of success until he was advised to combine his interest with the ministerial candidate, Sir Samuel Wood, a common, but a disingenuous artifice, by which he at last secured the requisite majority. But the resource undermined his popularity; and, when next obliged to present himself before the same electors, his fortune was reversed: of four candidates, he stood lowest on the poll. He managed, however, to gain a seat for Ilchester; but from this period declined in public estimation. Bereft of the emulation which he borrowed from his early friends, the natural indolence of his character overcame him; his attendance at the House became infrequent, and his speeches gradually lost the air of brightness and tone of energy for which he was originally so remarkable. At last some obscure charges of duplicity during the course of a negociation for a change of Ministry affected his reputation with the Whigs; his theatre was accidentally burnt down, he lost his seat in Parliament, and his fortune, both public and private, was reduced to the lowest ebb.

The close of Sheridan's career is as melancholy as any other upon record. He had always accustomed himself to habits of high living, and profuse hospitality; as an author and a theatrical proprietor, fortune greatly favoured his views; but, like all his family, he stood most piteously in want of prudence, and, though continually receiving money, was always reckless of economy. Thus he was always in debt. Embarrassment by continuance only trebles its weight in the natural course of things; he parted with his property in the theatre; his difficulties remained unlightened; and he was ultimately compelled to retire into seclusion, and struggle with poverty. The four final years of his life were spent under the most humble severities. His mind failed him amidst these last reverses; his stomach became disordered, and rejected food, and he lay delirious for five months. A few days before the approach of his dissolution, he recovered his senses, and died resigned, on Sunday, July the 7th, 1816. It is lamentable to add, that, for some time prior to his demise, he pined in his room under arrest; and it was only by the firmness and humanity of the late Dr. Baillie, that an obdurate attorney was prevented from executing a threat of removing the body to its death-bed in a jail! Such was the death of genius; such is a melancholy

Digitized by Google

lesson of life! The man who was the ornament and delight of every company, and a distinction to the age in which he lived, was meanly left to expire in all the bitterness of want and neglect!

When his death was publicly announced, a vivid but vain feeling of commiseration was expressed by the public. His body was removed to the house of Mr. Peter Moore, then M.P. for Coventry, where it was exposed in state, and visited by crowds of admirers. No funeral since that of Lord Nelson was so splendidly attended by men of all parties. At the head of the mourners were the Royal Dukes of York and Sussex, the first Ministers of State followed, and the procession, which was the more interesting because on foot, was continued in a long line by almost all the nobles, and every man of rank or ability in the metropolis. His grave adjoins that of Cumberland, near the monument of Addison, in the south transept of Westminster Abbey, where the spot may be distinguished by a common blue stone, which is inscribed with his name.

That Sheridan had many, and those most scandalous faults, has often been complained of, and can never be denied: but they have received their proper measure of condemnation; and those who shall henceforward be required to notice them, can find it no difficult task to pity and forgive. He must be uncandid in the extreme who could now charge Sheridan with prodigality, and suppress the melancholy moral that his misfortunes paid the full penalties of error. There is no flaw in principles, and no breach in propriety, to be instanced throughout all the vicissitudes of his life, which did not severely entail its particular distress. Nor can the most ascetic deny him the praise of suffering with virtue, for he bore his lot with a conviction that it was justly retributive. That he often forfeited the means of honesty by imprudence is notorious; but that he never disputed a claim, or rejected an application for money when his hands were full, is equally clear. It has also been shown, that, if in some cases he did not pay what he ought, in others, by the very nature of that improvidence which actually caused all his embarrassments, he returned far more than he owed, and discharged debts twice over. These were generous vices; and it is easy to perceive that the heart was tender, and the mind honourable. If there be no moralist who will deny that any sins

Digitized by Google

are too heinous for pardon, may we not affirm that the man who atones for the excesses of his youth by the adversity of his old age, goes after death clear in expiation before his Maker. Let no cynic then offer to punish what heaven may be presumed to have forgiven; and while the errors of Sheridan are remembered as so many preservatives against the contagion of a seductive example, let the virtues of his heart, and the talents of his head, be made the theme of applause, and the object of admiration.

This, at least, is an agreeable labour, for in what other man can be traced a greater display of vigour and versatility? There are no three dramas to be mentioned by any one author, during the course of the last century, which have attained or deserved the steady popularity, and standard reputation, of the 'Rivals,' the 'Duenna,' and the 'School for Scandal.' These, too, be it remembered, were the productions of Sheridan's youth. Of his political character, an estimate nearly as flattering is to be drawn. He entered upon a public career at the most formidable odds, and with the least possible advantages. Burke, Fox, and Pitt, either moulded in the experience of public business, or familiar with all the exercises of eloquence, stood forward in firm reputation, when Sheridan, untaught to harangue, unversed in politics, and unsupported by one solitary connexion of influence, usurped the arduous duties of a statesman. Save the celebrity he enjoyed as a man of letters, he had no recommendation to favour; but he was strengthened by innate powers, and they impelled him to rival the first men of the age. His voice was clear and agreeable, his enunciation distinct and unaffected, and his action plain but manly. In the fluency of his periods he was not outrun by Pitt, but he wanted Pitt's dignity; in the acuteness of his views he was, at times, not surpassed by Fox, but yet he had not Fox's fire; and in the brilliancy of his imagination he often rivalled Burke, to whom, however, he was inferior in plenitude of information, and universal power. He competed occasionally with Grattan in satire, and in light raillery and lively wit exceeded all the other speakers who appeared in contest with him. As he had less experience, so had he also less reading than his cotemporaries. Whatever illustration he threw upon a subject, he drew from himself alone. If not one of the most perfect, therefore, he was at least one of the most original of orators.

Digitized by Google

SIR CLOUDESLY SHOVEL.

In the south aisle of Westminster Abbey appears the monument erected to the honour of this intrepid admiral, which has been so emphatically censured by Addison in the Spectator, because, instead of the rough and boisterous captain, battling with the storm, and triumphing over its terror, we are entertained with the figure of a fine gentleman, of the first neatness, and in full dress, who is represented extended at his ease upon an ottoman. It cannot here escape observation, how very soon those names which are first amongst us for their attainments in literature and a cultivated taste, were seriously employed to induce our artists to make the subjects of these statuary records consist of some striking facts from actual life—to illustrate genius by its natural brightness; nor can it at the same time be too much regretted, that our artists should to this day be most reluctant in profiting by lessons so often repeated, and so powerfully enforced. In the execution of the present monument there is nothing more than commonly meritorious, or particularly admirable, unless it be, that the head has been praised for a good likeness. As to the inscription, it is in substance most common, and in expression most inelegant:—

Sir Cloudesly Shovell, Knt.
Rear-Admiral of Great Britain,
and Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet,
The just rewards
Of his long and faithful Services.
He was deservedly belov'd of his Country,
And esteemed, tho' dreaded, by the Enemy,
Who had often experienced his Conduct and Courage.

Digitized by Google

Being shipwreckt
On the rocks of Scilly,
In his voyage from Thoulon, the 22d of October, 1707, at Night,
In the 57th year of his age
His fate was lamented by all, but especially the
Seafaring part of the Nation,
To whom he was a Generous Patron, and a worthy Example.
His body was flung on the Shoar,
And buried with others in the Sands;
But being soon after taken up,
Was plac'd under this Monument
Which his Royall Mistress had caused to be Erected
To Commemorate
His Steady Loyalty and Extraordinary Vertues.

From such drawbacks upon content, we turn with satisfaction to a memoir of the gallant subject of these inadequate honours,—a man who, like many others mentioned in the course of these pages, rose by dint of inherent talents alone, from one of the lowest to one of the highest ranks in the service of his country. So humble were the circumstances of his parents, that they were unable to provide any better pursuit for their hopeful offspring, than the mean avocation of a shoemaker. But the spirit of the apprentice was above the last, and soon aspired to a nobler weapon than the awl. Invigorated by the hopes of more honourable enterprize, he absconded from the manufacture of soles, and enlisted in the Navy. His first captain was Sir John Narborough, whose favourable eye he soon attracted, by the quickness of his disposition, and the avidity of his courage. One instance of his early gallantry is recorded.—During the heat of an action in which he was concerned, while yet a mere boy, he heard Sir John express an earnest desire to have some orders conveyed to another ship, which lay at a considerable distance. This service young Shovel volunteered to perform: receiving the dispatches, he clasped them between his teeth, and thus swam through the enemy's fire to the necessary quarter.

This action constituted the base of his fortune; the Admiral not only promoted him on the spot, but retained him ever after under his special patronage. Under these auspices he rose with

Digitized by Google

speed to the rank of Lieutenant. In 1674, when the expedition was fitted out to repress the boldness of the Barbary Corsairs, Sir John Narborough was appointed commander, and took young Shovel with him in his own ship. The confidence of mutual ability established between them must now have been considerable; for Shovel was selected by the Admiral for a mission to the Dey of Tripoli, in the main object of which, though he failed, yet from the judicious observations he made, and the accurate information he obtained, while resident among the barbarians, enabled him, upon his return, to lay before the commander a plan for the destruction of the hostile fleet. His description of the number and disposition of the ships, the strength of the forts, and the nature of the harbour, was so minute and masterly, that the project was approved of, and the projector instantly named the fittest person to carry it into execution. In conformity with his own views, he therefore proceeded at midnight, with the boats of the squadron, seized upon the guard pinnace, entered the mole, and, without the loss of a single man, burned four vessels of the largest size. This exploit added fresh brilliancy to his name, and upon the first vacancy he was promoted to the command of the Sapphire, a fourth-rate ship. With her he was dispatched, in 1679, under the command of Sheffield, Duke of Buckingham, to the relief of Tangier, which was threatened by a formidable attack from the Moors. On the 8th of November, a desperate assault was made by the enemy to carry the place at one movement; and such was the force and fury of the charge, that Shovel was required to debark his men, and assist the troops on shore. This service was promptly rendered, and enforced with an example of the greatest bravery. The enemy were repulsed with a loss which deterred them from a second attack, and the armament returned victorious to England. Shovel, however, was severely wounded, and, by consequence, was prevented for some time after from any participation in the public service.

When, however, his health permitted him to rejoin the fleet, the war was still in a course of vigorous prosecution against the states of Barbary; and was soon farther signalized by his achievements. He took or destroyed several of their most powerful cruizers, and was very successful in interrupting the little commerce which these piratical states carried on. He returned

Digitized by Google

to England in the latter part of the year 1680; and James II., who then conducted the affairs of the navy without the assistance of a board of admiralty, thought so highly of his merit, that he immediately appointed him to the command of the Dover frigate. He continued in this ship till the Revolution, when he was appointed to the Edgar, a third-rate, and signalized himself so greatly in the battle of Bantry Bay, that King William conferred on him the honour of knighthood. Removing soon after into the Monk, of 60 guns, he was appointed commander of a small squadron, consisting of four ships of war, and five inferior vessels, which were directed to cruize up and down the channel, and off the coast of Ireland. On this service he met with considerable success, and intercepted many of the French supplies which were intended for the use of King James's army in Ireland.

In the following year he was commodore of the squadron which conveyed William to Ireland, and behaved so much to the satisfaction of his sovereign, that he was immediately afterwards raised to the rank of Rear-admiral of the Blue. Towards the close of the same year he assisted General Kirk in the reduction of Duncannon Castle, and in January following served as Rear-admiral in the fleet which conveyed King William to Holland.

On his return he joined the grand fleet under Admiral Russel, and was ordered to look into Brest. Arrived off that harbour, he saw forty sail of merchant ships coming out, under the protection of three men of war. To deceive them, he hoisted French colours; and this stratagem had nearly proved successful, for the enemy did not discover their danger until they were almost close to the English squadron. The ships of war then took to flight and escaped; but seven or eight of the convoy were taken, and several others destroyed.

At the memorable battle off Cape la Hogue, Shovel carried his flag, as Rear-admiral of the Red, on board the Royal William, a new ship of 100 guns, and had his full share of the danger and honour of that glorious day. In 1694, he was second in command in the expedition to Camaret Bay; and afterwards, by the express desire of the King, had the chief management of an expedition against Dunkirk. But the attempt did not succeed; and he took care to demonstrate, that no fault lay in him; for he went with a boat within the enemy's works, and so became an

Digitized by Google

eye witness of the impossibility of doing what his orders had directed him to do. Upon his return home, therefore, he was perfectly well received, and continued to be employed as a man who would command success where it was possible, and omit nothing to retrieve a reverse when unavoidable.

During the following year he served in the squadron commanded by Lord Berkely, which bombarded St. Maloes, and exposed himself to every danger with the greatest personal intrepidity. He was employed also, under the same nobleman, in another expedition against Dunkirk, which likewise failed, owing, as the dispatches asserted, to the mistakes of the engineer. During the remainder of the war he continued to serve in various parts, but without meeting with any opportunity of adding to the honours he had already acquired.

On the accession of Queen Anne, by whom Sir Cloudesly was held as highly in esteem, as he had been by her predecessor, he was advanced to the rank of Admiral of the White; and, in the autumn of 1702, was sent with a squadron of twenty sail, to reinforce Sir George Rooke, off Vigo. The place being taken before his arrival, and his services in that quarter thereby rendered unnecessary, he was charged to return to England with the disabled ships of the British fleet, and the captured vessels of the enemy. In the following year he was appointed commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean station, and sailed from St. Helen's with a fleet, consisting of thirty-five English and twelve Dutch ships of the line. The object of this powerful armament was to assist the Cevenois, protestant inhabitants of Languedoc, who, being severely persecuted on account of their religion by Lewis XIV., had revolted from his authority, and implored the assistance of the maritime powers. Sir Cloudesly used every effort to afford them succour; but, finding his endeavours ineffectual, was obliged to return to England. He had the fortune, however, to capture a French fifty gun ship on his passage homewards.

In 1704, he served under Sir George Rooke, and was present at the taking of Gibraltar, in the action off Malaga, when he commanded the van of the combined fleets of England and Holland. On the 6th of January, 1705, he was appointed Rear-admiral of England; and, in the month of May following, sailed again as Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean

Digitized by Google

station. His fleet consisted of twenty-nine sail of the line, besides frigates, fire-ships, bombs, &c.; and, on his arrival off Lisbon, he was joined by a squadron under Sir John Leake, and some Dutch ships of war, which made his whole force amount to forty-eight sail of the line. To prevent a junction between the squadrons lying at Toulon and Brest, he cruised awhile between Cape Spartel and Cadiz, and then returned to Lisbon. On the 22d of July, the King of Spain, Charles III., embarked on board the fleet, which immediately proceeded to the Mediterranean. They anchored in the Bay of Attea on the 11th of August, and the next day appeared before Barcelona. The land forces immediately debarked under the command of the Prince of Hesse, and the Earl of Peterborough; and the ships of war being hauled on shore, to co-operate with the army, the bombarding commenced with vigour, and continued until the 23d of September, when the governor capitulated. This service performed, Sir Cloudesly proceeded to England with part of the fleet, and left the remainder in the Mediterranean under the command of Sir John Leake.

During the following summer, Shovel resumed his command in the Mediterranean, and became involved in some disputes with the Portuguese ministry. The affair alluded to is involved in considerable obscurity, but the following is believed to be very nearly an accurate relation of it. Whilst he was at Lisbon, Sir Cloudesly ordered some of his ships to sea on a cruize, which were fired at, as they were passing down the Tagus, by the royal castle of Belam. The British admiral, highly incensed at this outrage, complained in severe terms to the ministers of the King of Portugal, who alleged, in excuse, that the matter originated in the mistake of the governor, who had orders to fire and detain a Genoese ship that had not discharged the port dues. The apology, however, was not admitted, because the ship alluded to was then in the harbour, and Shovel had great reason to suspect that one of the younger princes of the royal family of Portugal was concerned in the insult that was offered to his flag. He therefore gave public notice, that if such an insult was offered again to the British colours, he would not wait for instructions from home how to proceed, but would take immediate satisfaction from the mouth of his cannon.

Digitized by Google

Continuing to command on the Mediterranean station, he sailed, in 1707, to Toulon, to assist the operations of the Duke of Savoy and Prince Eugene, who had invested the arsenal by land. But the success of the military co-operations was partial. Had it been otherwise, Toulon would have been taken by the confederate forces, with upwards of forty sail of the line. The French made a most vigorous and successful sally on the 4th of August, the Allies were compelled to raise the siege, and the British fleet retired from before the port.

Leaving Sir Thomas Dilkes in the Mediterranean, with a squadron of thirteen ships of the line, he sailed homewards with the remainder of the fleet. On the 22d of October, the admiral struck soundings in 90 fathoms water, and, the wind then blowing strong from the S.S.W. with hazy weather, he made the signal for the fleet to bring to. At six in the evening he made sail again under his courses, from which it was conjectured that he believed he saw the Scilly light. Ere long he made the signals of danger, as did several other ships; but the melancholy guns were discharged in vain, for no ear heard the report. Soon after, the Association, of 90 guns, (Sir Cloudesly's ship,) struck upon the rocks, called the Bishop and his Clerks, or, as some accounts say, the Gilston rocks, and instantly went to pieces, when the admiral, and every soul on board, perished. One ship of 70 and another of 50 guns shared the same fate; and many others were in imminent danger, but escaped by great exertions of seamanship.

The body of the admiral was found under the rocks of St. Mary, a few days after his shipwreck, whence it was conveyed in a royal ship, with every indication of public sorrow and respect, to Plymouth, and ultimately forwarded to London. Here a public funeral and a national monument were decreed to his memory; of which the former was celebrated with considerable pomp, and the latter has been already described. He left behind him two daughters and his wife, who was also the widow of his early friend and patron Sir John Narborough. As his private life was highly estimable, and his public services eminently great, so was the melancholy prematurity of his death not only bewailed by his private friends, but also lamented by his country at large.

Digitized by Google

EDMUND SPENSER.

SPENSER is commemorated by a plain tablet in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey. It was originally erected by Anne, the celebrated Countess of Dorset, and consisted of a block of Purbeck stone, which, falling gradually into decay, was restored by a subscription, set on foot at the instigation of Mason the poet, in 1768. The form of the present memorial corresponds with the old one in every particular, the substitution of statuary marble for Purbeck stone solely excepted. The inscription is cut in this order:—

Heare lyes (expecting the second
Comminge of our Saviour CHRIST
JESUS) the body of Edmond Spencer,
The Prince of Poets in his tyme,
Whose divine spirrit needs noe
Other witnesse than the works
Which he left behinde him.
He was borne in London in the yeare 1553,
And died in the yeare 1598.

Of Edmund Spenser, the most popular and gifted of our antient poets, all accounts are imperfect and unsatisfactory in the extreme. According to the epitaph, he was born in London about the year 1553: it is believed that he was descended from humble parents, though he represents himself as a relation to the noble family bearing the same name in Northamptonshire. All that is known of the manner and progress of his education is comprised in the facts, that he appears to have been a sizar in

Digitized by Google

Pembroke College, Cambridge, during the year 1569; and that after taking his degree of Master of Arts, he stood an unsuccessful contest for a Fellowship in 1576. This latter disappointment is conjectured to have driven him from the University; after which he spent some time among his relatives in the North of England. The 'Shepherd's Complaint,' published in 1579, and dedicated, under the signature of Immerito, to Mr., afterwards Sir Philip Sydney, was his first production. By Sydney, whom he thus made his friend, he was introduced to the influential Earl of Leicester, and by him named an agent for foreign countries. That he either went abroad or executed any offices, in consequence of this appointment, is not supposed. In 1580, Lord Grey, of Wilton, was commissioned to be Lord Deputy of Ireland, and Spenser was declared his Secretary.

The duties of this busy post he discharged with great talent and assiduity for two years. Returning then to England with Lord Grey, he is thought to have hung awhile about the Court of Queen Elizabeth, who, in 1586, gave him a grant of three thousand acres in the county of Cork, which formed a part of the estates forfeited by the Earl of Desmond. Of this property he took possession during the course of the following year, and fixing his residence at the castle of Kilcolman, near Doneraile, was chosen Clerk to the Council of the Province of Munster. Here he was visited by Sir Walter Raleigh, whom he celebrated in a poem entitled the 'Shepherd of the Ocean.' Here, too, he occupied himself with the composition of his 'Faery Queen,' with the manuscript of which he accompanied Raleigh to London in 1590, where it was published without delay, prefaced with a dedication to Elizabeth, and an explanatory address to Raleigh. The Queen returned her part of the compliment with a pension of 50*l.* a year.

Before a twelvemonth had elapsed, he went back to Ireland, and after the pastoral fashion, which he so loved to sing, married a rustic lass of low degree. The disturbed state of the country, however, compelled him to seek refuge in England, during the year 1595, where he printed 'Colin Clout's come home again,' with some other poems, and submitted to the Queen his 'View of the State of Ireland,' which remained in manuscript until 1633, when it was edited by Sir James Ware, who passed a high

Digitized by Google

panegyric upon the knowledge and judgment it revealed, but properly condemned the spirit of political acerbity which it breathed. By late judges it is reputed a performance, heated, fanciful, and erroneous. A new impression of the 'Faery Queen,' to which were added some new books, engaged his attention in 1596, and constituted his last literary labour. The poem, therefore, had the misfortune to remain incomplete.

Tempted by the hope of peaceful times, he once more ventured over to Ireland in 1597, but was doomed to severe misfortunes. The Earl of Tyrone roused the persecuted natives into rebellion, and overran the country with fire and sword. Castlecolman was burnt, and an infant daughter of Spenser's perished in the flames. All his lands devastated, and his property made the spoil of the victors, the Poet hurried back with his wife into England, and after a short interval of acute indigence expired, according to the assertion of his biographers, of a broken heart. The Earl of Essex discharged the expenses of his funeral, which was attended by several brother bards, who threw panegyrics upon his works into the grave. His poems, particularly the 'Faery Queen,' have been published at different times, in various forms; but the best complete edition of his works is that given by Mr. Todd, in six vols. 8vo.

The rust of time, and an obsolete phraseology, have robbed Spenser of his reputation amongst vulgar readers, but, with scholars, age has only mellowed his honours. Like Chaucer, he has been paraphrased and imitated by some of the most illustrious of our poets. Pope ranks first in the list, but fails to impart in any way a pure idea of his original. Thomson's 'Castle of Indolence' is an admirable piece of happy imitation, and Shenstone's 'School Mistress,' with the 'Education of Achilles' by Bedingfeld, are pleasing specimens in the same style. His works are to be reviewed under the head of Pastorals, Sonnets, and Hymns; and that mainspring of his fame, the 'Faery Queen.' The pastorals can now be seldom read, for they are too rude and imperfect for a modern taste. The sonnets and hymns are, in many passages, remarkable for beauty of sentiment, felicity of versification, a fervid spirit of piety, and an exalted strain of morality; but they are most tediously pedantic. The 'Faery Queen' is justly estimated one of the noblest compositions in our lan-

Digitized by Google

guage. Fault undoubtedly may be found with the prolixity and confusion of the plan, the want of connexion and incident in the fable, and the improbability of the adventures; but it is not to be matched in fertility of imagination, vividness of description, and richness of allegory. For this last quality he has been pronounced the Rubens of poetry:—the following lines, crowded with metaphor, and yet most gracefully couched, afford an example; they are from Book ii. c. 7.

By that way's side there sat infernal Pain,
And fast beside him sat tumultuous Strife;
The one in hand an iron whip did strain,
The other brandished a bloody knife,
And both did gnash their teeth, and both did threaten life.

But knawing Jealousy, out of their sight
Sitting alone, his bitter lips did bite;
And trembling Fear still to and fro did fly,
And found no place where safe he shroud him might.
Lamenting Sorrow did in darkness lie,
And Shame his ugly face did hide from living eye.

The strength with which so many figures are here embodied is most masterly; but his fancy is not less creative in pourtraying a single object with the various circumstances that can attach to it. Here is another picture of Jealousy from Book iii. c. 11.

Into that cave he creeps, and thenceforth there
Resolv'd to build his baleful mansion
In dreary darkness, and continual fear
Of that rock's fall, which ever and anon
Threats with huge ruin him to fall upon,
That he dares never sleep, but that one eye
Still ope he keeps for that occasion;
Ne ever rests he in tranquillity,
The roaring billows beat his bower so boisterously.

Digitized by Google

EARLS OF STANHOPE.

JAMES, first Earl of Stanhope, has a lofty monument adjoining the principal entrance into the choir of Westminster Abbey. The structure itself is exclusively devoted to the illustration of his life and character; but, as there are some additional inscriptions upon it commemorative of his descendants, this notice embraces a commemoration of his son and grandson. The monument, a laboured and costly production, was designed with no great imagination by William Kent, painter and architect, and executed with much freedom and skill by Michael Rysbrach. The Earl, clad as an ancient warrior, is introduced in a recumbent posture, clasping a truncheon in his right, and a scroll in his left hand; at his feet stands an urchin leaning against a shield; a state tent protects his person, upon the crown of which is seated an armed Pallas, with a javelin in one hand, and a scroll in the other: a pyramid conceals the background;—and thus the performance is in every respect a counterpiece to the monument of Newton, on the other side of the door. The first inscription is a Latin one, to this effect:*—

Sacred to the Memory of
JAMES, EARL of STANHOPE, a man supremely noble, and step after step adorned by a splendid variety of honours. Bred in the

* M. S.
Viri Prænobilis JACOBI COMITIS STANHOPE, quem, pro multifaria Ingenii Præstantia Splendida Honorum varietas gradatim illustravit. Castris ab ineunte Adolescentia innutritus, perpetua Titulorum Serie ad militaris Fas-

Digitized by Google

camp from his earliest youth, he opened for himself, without envy, a path to the glory of military pre-eminence by an unbroken series of distinctions. What he achieved as the commander of an army, Spain is a witness, and our medals stamped with veracious eulogy, proclaim.

Nor did he acquire less celebrity in the management of civil affairs; for there was no illustrious office in which the fortune of his country did not exercise his talents, and in which he did not shine as the faithful servant of that country, and the wise counsellor of his king. He negociated treaties the most weighty; and, when connected with the administration of the Treasury, preserved the credit of a delicate currency undepreciated, by adjusting the coinage with perfect ingenuity and chaste disinterestedness. In either senate-house he prevailed with vivid powers of speech—inflamed the erect spirits of his audience, and meanwhile stood in the midmost heats of ardent eloquence, true to himself in unmoved tranquillity of judgment.

Tempering these arts of peace and war by a humanity of disposition the most sweet, and elegantly distinguishing the intervals of business by the delights of more than polished learning, he was forbidden any longer to benefit his country, save through a surviving offspring of the best promise, by a premature death, on the fifth day of February, in the year of our Lord 1720, and of his age 47.

tigii Gloriam, sine invidia viam sibi munivit. Quid Exercitûs Imperator gessit, Testis est HISPANIA, et affixa veraci Præconio loquentur Numismata.

Nec in Civilibus Rebus dirigendis minorem adeptus est Celebritatem: cum nullum fere esset Officium Illustrius in quo Ipsum non exercuit Fortuna Patriæ, in quo Ipse non emicuit Adjutor Patriæ Fidus et Sagax Regi a Secretis. Fœderum gravissimorum Auctor fuit Perfectorq: in Ærarii Administratione caste versatus delicatam Publicarum Pæcuniarum Fidem temperato solerter Fœnore, conservavit integram. In utraque Senatûs Curia vivida dicendi Facultate præpollens, arrectos auditorum animos inflammavit, Ipse interea in medio ardentis Eloquii æstu, immota Judicii Tranquillitate sibi constans.

Has Belli Pacisq: Artes Suavissimæ Indolis Humanitate condientem, politiorisq: Doctrinæ Deliciis Intervalla Negotiorum elegantissime distinguentem Patriæ diutius prodesse, nisi per superstitem optimæ spei progeniem, vetuit Mors præmatura, Quinto Die Feb: A. D. 1720, Ætatis Suæ 47.

Digitized by Google

The next inscription is also in Latin,* and records, in very neat terms, that George Stanhope, second son of James, the first Earl, after resigning in 1747 a lieutenant colonelcy, which he had held for five years, died a private individual, on the 24th of March, 1754, in his 57th year. He fought at Culloden, and was wounded at Lafeldt. This memorial was provided by his elder brother, who is thus remembered:—

To the Memory of
PHILIP second Earl STANHOPE,
Conspicuous for UNIVERSAL Benevolence,
Unshaken PUBLIC Integrity,
And PRIVATE Worth.

Deep were his researches
In Philosophy,
And extensive his Ideas
For his Country's Good.
He was ever a determined Supporter
Of the *Trial by Jury*,
Of the *Freedom of Elections*,
Of a numerous and well-regulated *Militia*,
And of the *Liberty of the Press*.

* Hic quoque memorandus est
GEORGIUS STANHOPE,
JACOBI Comitis STANHOPE Filius Secundus,
Qui Tribunatu Vicario
(Quem annos tenuerat circiter quinque)
abdicato anno 1747-8,
Privatus obiit Mar. 24, 1754, annum agens 37um.
Patriæ forsan desideratus
Amicis certe desideratissimus.
Anno 1743
Cladis depulsor apud Falkirk,
Anno 1746
Victoriæ Particeps apud Culloden,
Anno 1747
Honeste vulneratus apud Lafeldt.
Mœreus faciendum curavit Frater, P.C.S.

Digitized by Google

On the 7th day of March, 1786,
(and in the 72d year of his Age)
He terminated an Honourable Life
Spent in the Exercise of Virtue,
In the Improvement of Science,
And in the Pursuit of Truth.

In respectful remembrance of Him,
The above Lines are inscribed
By his affectionate Son, Charles Earl Stanhope.

CHARLES, third Earl STANHOPE, was born the 3d of August, A.D. 1753,
Succeeded to his title 7th of March, A.D. 1786,
Died at Chevening, in Kent, 15 December, A.D. 1816.

To the statements of these epitaphs, the addition of a few facts seem desirable. The first Earl was the son of Alexander Stanhope, who was the son of Philip first Earl of Chesterfield, by his second wife, Ann, daughter of Sir John Packington, and was born during the year 1673. Visiting Spain, at a very early age, he acquired a thorough knowledge of the language of the country, and there adopted the profession of arms. His gallantry at the siege of Namur attracted the attention of King William, who gave him a company on the field, and soon after made him Colonel of the 33d foot. In 1704, he was taken prisoner at Porta-la-Grara, in Portugal; but, being speedily exchanged, obtained promotion to the rank of Brigadier-general, and greatly distinguished himself at the ensuing siege of Barcelona, under the Earl of Peterborough. The reduction of Minorca was the most important and dexterous achievement of his career. In 1707, he was commissioned to negociate a treaty with Spain; and, after discharging his trust advantageously, was appointed Ambassador at the Court of Charles III. When a fresh rupture took place, he again figured at the head of an army, and reduced Port Mahon in 1708. In 1710 he commanded the allied troops in Spain; and, after killing the Spanish general with his own hands before the gates of Madrid, planted the colours of England in that subjugated capital. Before the year closed, however, he met with a reverse of fortune, and had the mortification to be taken

Digitized by Google

prisoner, with 3000 chosen troops, at Briheuza. For this act he was censured by the House of Lords. The reign of George the I. with whom he was a confidential favourite, brought him his highest acquisition of honours. In 1714 he impeached the Duke of Ormond; in 1715 was nominated a Member of the Privy Council, and Secretary at War; and in 1716 was preferred to be one of the principal Secretaries of State. During the following year he became First Commissioner of the Treasury, and Chancellor of the Exchequer, and was raised to the Peerage with the titles of Lord Mahon, Earl Stanhope. In 1718 he resigned his post at the Treasury, but resumed the seals in the office of principal Secretary of State. This was his last official situation, and he did honour to it, by bringing in a bill for the modification of the Test and Corporation Acts, which, after an animated opposition, was declared part and parcel of the law. The first Earl was a man of decided talents, and clear reputation, in the various capacities with which his name is associated. His public zeal was strong, his services highly advantageous, and his character has been most favourably appreciated by the country.

The second Earl was born on the 15th of August, 1714, and succeeded to the titles of the family, when only seven years old. His guardian was the celebrated Earl of Chesterfield, by whom especial pains were taken with his education. Nor were these pains unrewarded, for it is admitted on all hands that he was not exceeded in his knowledge of antient and modern languages, and a profound acquaintance with mathematics. For these acquirements, the panegyric of his epitaph is simple truth. He was a scholar, and the patron of scholars. But he applied his learning solely to the gratification of his private hours, and in no respect obtruded his attainments upon the public, except as a senator. In this character, however, he was deservedly popular. His endeavours to reduce the expenditure of the country, and to confirm the liberty of the people, and his hostility to the American war, and the proceedings respecting Wilkes's Middlesex election, reflected equal honour upon the correctness of his judgment, and the ardour of his patriotism.

Digitized by Google

Charles, the third Earl, though the least praised of his family on the monument, was, nevertheless, one of the most singular and celebrated men of the age in which he lived, or the house from which he sprung. He was a patriot, a philosopher, and a philanthropist of eminent desert and purity. A second son, he was sent, in his eighth year, to Eton School, where he remained until he was ten, but then removed with his family to Geneva, in consequence of the bad health of his elder brother. The death of that brother soon after made him heir to his father's titles, and then the celebrated Le Sage was engaged to be his tutor. Thus ably instructed, he grew rapidly distinguished for his classical and mathematical attainments, so much so, that in his eighteenth year he obtained a premium from the Swedish Society of Arts and Sciences, for the best Treatise on the Pendulum. The paper was written in French, and displayed considerable skill in the language, and proficiency in science.

Returning to England, he stood candidate for the representation of Westminster; but, failing in his object, obtained a return for the borough of High-Wycombe. Once presented before the country in a responsible capacity, he commanded universal admiration by the independence of his conduct. Marrying a daughter of the great Chatham, he adopted the views of that truly noble lord, declared himself a staunch friend to Parliamentary reform, opposed the American war with great vigour, made the most enlightened efforts in favour of religious toleration, and sought on every occasion to reduce the national debt, and lighten the burthens of the people. Nearly as he was related to Mr. Pitt, he nevertheless declined both place and pension with him when the liberality of his early principles seemed to abate; but though warm in his advocacy of the French Revolution, he voted with the minister on the subject of the Regency.

There is, perhaps, no series of motions in the history of the British Parliament more curious and extraordinary than those brought forward by the third Earl of Stanhope. Always thinking for himself, he always acted by himself, recognised no party, viewed every subject upon its natural ground, and supported or opposed it with legitimate feelings. Praiseworthy as this line of conduct unquestionably was, it nevertheless met with a peculiar fate; for, as he linked himself with no specific body of men, so

Digitized by Google

he was never upheld by any large numbers. The repeated motions he made for religious toleration, and a peace with revolutionary France, supply the melancholy proofs of this misfortune. So extreme was his want of influence in this respect, that he frequently could not procure a seconder for his questions, and thus attained the name of the 'Minority of One.'

As a man of science, however, Lord Stanhope obtained a far higher character, and with much greater satisfaction. To record and explain all his plans, inventions, and discoveries, were a task too lengthy for these pages; the following summary, however, will afford no mean opinion of his talents and indefatigability:—

1. He devised a way to detect and obviate all fraudulent practices in coinage and forgery.—2. He formed a project for securing houses from conflagration, of which the particulars are detailed in the Philosophical Transactions for 1778, and the practicability was proved by a trial in the presence of thousands, at his seat in Kent.—3. He found out a new mode of burning lime, by aiding the power of the kiln with a wind-furnace, and also discovered a new composition for roofing houses—consisting of tar, chalk, and clean sand.—4. He was one of the first to suggest electrical experiments upon the 'returning stroke.'—5. He invented a mathematical machine, which solved problems in multiplication and division to any extent.—6. He was among the earliest inventors of the steam-boat, and made the first experiment of one of those most ingenious of vessels at his own expense on the river Thames.—7. The double inclined plane, for improving the construction of locks, is also to be ascribed to his lordship.—8. His, too, is the printing press, now in general use, commonly distinguished as the Stanhope Press.

Of his published works, numerous papers in the Philosophical Transactions excepted, the following is a catalogue:—1. A Treatise on the Means of Preventing Fraudulent Practices in respect to the Gold Coin.—2. Principles of Electricity.—3. Observations on Mr. Pitt's Plan for the Reduction of the National Debt.—4. Letter to Mr. Burke on the French Revolution. 5. The Rights of Juries defended, and the opposition to Mr. Fox's Libel Bill refuted.—6. Principles of the Science of Tuning Instruments with fixed Notes.—7. An Address to the People of Great Britain and Ireland, on the subject of the Union.

Digitized by Google

JAMES THOMSON.

THOMSON'S monument, designed by Adam the architect, and executed by Spang the sculptor, adjoins the statue of Shakspeare, in the south cross aisle of Westminster Abbey. The poet is introduced resting one hand upon a book, and holding the cap of Liberty in the other. The Seasons are personified in bas relief on the pedestal, to which an urchin with a crown of laurel points attention. The epitaph is thus engraved :—

JAMES THOMSON,
Ætatis 48 obiit: 27 Aug. 1748.

Tutor'd by thee, sweet POETRY exalts
Her voice to Ages, and informs the page
With Music, Image, Sentiment and Thought,
Never to die!

THIS MONUMENT WAS ERECTED MDCCLXII.

James Thomson, son of the minister of Ednam, in Roxburghshire, was born at his father's rectory, on the 7th of September, 1700. The family was numerous, and appears to have been in narrow circumstances, though mention is made by the biographers of a little property, inherited by his mother, which the pride of the Scotch dignified with the name of an estate. The young poet owed the benefit of his education to the generosity of a neighbouring clergyman, named Riccarton, who sent him to the public school of Jedburg, and afterwards removed him to the High School at Edinburgh. While yet a school-boy he was a versifier, though not much to his own content; for it is reported that he used to

Digitized by Google

consume in the fire, every New Year's day, all the productions of the preceding twelve months. After residing two years in the Scotch capital, he lost his father, and was there joined by his mother. The vocation of his father being proposed to his views, he principally directed his studies to qualify himself for the ministry, until the poetical splendour with which he clothed some of his probationary exercises drew down upon him the censures of the Professor of Divinity, and damped his ardour for a course of life, which thus seemed only likely to enslave the energies of his genius.

Under this distress, he again turned his thoughts to the Muses, and, as is usually the case, found the first judges, to whom he ventured to submit his aspirations, acrimonious and unfavourable. There was a lady, however, an acquaintance of his mother, who, as she possessed money, was referred to as an authority, and fortunately for the timid bard, not only cast an approving eye upon his productions, but even went so far as to countenance his design of seeking for emolument and fame in London. To promote this scheme, she farther promised the aid of her purse; but that solid help was never conferred; and the chief assistance which Thomson received from his friends, on his journey to London, was a bundle of recommendatory letters. These he carried prudently tied up in a pocket kerchief, but he had no sooner reached London, than they were stolen from him as he loitered gapingly along the streets. His finances were already so reduced, that he could not afford to replace the pair of shoes which he had worn out in his journey; and thus he stood, amidst the confusion of a strange metropolis, without either means or prospect of money, except from the sale of his 'Winter'—which, though the last in order, was the first of his 'Seasons' which he completed.

He was fortunate enough, however, to make himself known to his countryman, Mallet the poet, who was then tutor to the sons of the Duke of Montrose; and by his assistance, after many refusals, succeeded in getting Millar, the bookseller, to purchase his copyright for a small sum. The sale at first was by no means remunerative, and celebrity seemed far from likely to reward the maiden author, when a gentleman named Whatley, well-known in the literary circles of the day, perceived the

Digitized by Google

merits of the attempt, and delighted himself with praising the new poem on 'Winter,' wherever he called, or whoever he talked to. It was dedicated to Sir Spencer Compton, with those expectations of pecuniary acknowledgment which were at that time usually bestowed in return for such compliments; but on this hope disappointment again hung, until Aaron Hill, the unsuccessful writer of tragedy, inserted some verses in the newspapers, which led the Baronet to excuse himself from not having rewarded the poet, upon the plea that the latter had never waited upon him. This hint was of course taken, and Thomson received a present of twenty guineas.

During the next year, 1727, Thomson distinguished himself by three publications—another Season, 'Summer;' one poem on the 'Death of Sir Isaac Newton; and another entitled 'Britannia.' 'Summer' he originally wished to dedicate to Lord Binning, in whose family he had for some time resided; but it was eventually inscribed to Mr. Dodington, because the kindness which had at first introduced the Lord to notice the poet, also led him to decline an act of gratitude, which another man had more power to recompense. 'Britannia' decried the ministry, and therefore identified the author with the political views of the Parliamentary Opposition. During the course of this year, Thomson's reputation became powerfully established, and the announcement of a tragedy from his pen was received with the highest marks of esteem. To so great a pitch was the expectation of the public wrought, that each of the rehearsals was attended by a fashionable audience, and it was universally anticipated that the tragedy of 'Sophonisba' would exalt and enrich both the author and the stage in an unprecedented manner. But the issue poorly accorded with so flattering a prelude. 'Sophonisba' had no unusual run of success. Though well attended at the first representations, there was little in it to affect the feelings; and however the audience may have admired the dignity of declamation, or the morality of sentiment contained in the piece, they soon agreed that incidents more moving, and characters more vivid, are necessary to secure either interest or applause on the theatre.

Of the remaining Seasons, 'Spring' was published in 1728; and 'Autumn' in 1730; when the author's works were first col-

Digitized by Google

lected and published together. Respecting the dedication of 'Spring' to the Countess of Hertford, it has been told, that it was an acknowledgment for the honour which her ladyship did the author, in inviting him one summer to her seat in the country, in order to hear her own verses read, and assist in the direction of her studies. It was at first suggested that the compliment would be repeated; but it is added, that as Thomson was pleased to spend more time in carousing with Lord Hertford and his friends, than in helping her ladyship to cultivate the Muses, he was never asked again, and the celebrity of the dedication was purchased at a cheaper rate than was promised.

The solid consequences of the favourable repute in which Thomson had now for some time stood, began to appear, in his appointment to situations at once lucrative and creditable. The first of these was the choice made by the Lord Chancellor Talbot, to send him to travel with his eldest son. The journey was undertaken with the prospect of great enjoyment, and prosecuted with a succession of delights. He lived in the first style of fortune, had no expense of his own; commanded all the instructive novelties of art and literature, both ancient and modern; embellished his taste, and strengthened his mind, and, above all, had the certainty of a competence upon his return home. That event was occasioned much sooner than he imagined: his charge died; he came back to England, and was made Secretary of Briefs in the Court of Chancery. Another fruit of this Continental excursion was 'Liberty,' a poem, in five parts. The protracted administration of Sir Robert Walpole had given rise to many warm representations of the signal injuries which the cause of freedom had received from many of his political acts and approved intensions, in all of which Thomson and his party fearfully participated. The impressions thus founded upon the mind of the poet were forcibly confirmed by the lamentable state to which he saw the states of the Continent reduced by the arbitrary measures of uncontrolled ministers. Thus he resolved to unburthen his feelings in a poem worthy of the greatness of the subject. Two years were spent upon the undertaking, and when completed, he estimated it as his noblest performance. It is not, however, the work for which the public has best approved, or most remembered him. He

Digitized by Google

was a writer who could do nothing ill, and his poem of 'Liberty' will therefore be found ample in design, unblemished in execution, and classical in style; and if it is not more read, and oftener quoted, the reason plainly is, that in England the theme of it is too frequently agitated, and too fully understood, to leave much interest for the general illustration he has given of all the benefits it procured, and the praises it deserves.

Thomson was now at ease in his fortune, and, as is too commonly the case, his Muse participated in the relaxation which plenty occasioned. But the duration of this happiness was brief; his patron died; Lord Hardwicke became Chancellor, and, after some delay, superseded him in his office. The friends of the nobleman stated, that the act was deferred purposely to allow Thomson full leisure to solicit for his continuance in the post, which was ultimately forfeited, only because the Chancellor would not give what the poet would not solicit. But the excuse is mean, and the fact deserves reprobation. If merit is only to be rewarded when it courts power, the page which commemorates the life of genius must ever continue what it has too often been, the record of misery and injustice. Thus thrown back into his original poverty, Thomson was again urged to write upon the spur of necessity, and produced, in 1738, his tragedy of 'Agamemnon.' Pope, who always evinced a sincere regard for him, took a warm interest in the success of the piece, and attended the theatre upon the first night of its representation, where he was no sooner recognized, than a general round of applause was given to him by the company. But no personal influence, nor private interest, can pervert the bias of popular taste; a mere mythological story never has nor ever can succeed upon the English stage; and in future, instead of wondering at such failures, we should rather express astonishment at the hardihood of such attempts.

It was about this time that Sir Robert Walpole got that act of Parliament passed which required a license from the Lord Chamberlain for the performance of every play intended for representation at either of the great houses. The occasion of this legislative measure was said to be the conduct of a body of French comedians, who, not content with mimicking the leading

Digitized by Google

men of the day, went even to the length of personating the sovereign himself under the broadest traits of ridicule. The provocation was certainly scandalous; but the act is notwithstanding a disgrace to a literary people, and a free nation. The law was open to the punishment of the offence, and most obnoxious scenes may still find a vent from the press. The first play that was forbidden under this new rule, was the 'Gustavus Vasa' of Brooke; and the second, the 'Edward and Eleonora' of Thomson. What reason there was for these restrictions, except in the spirit of party, no man could even then divine: both tragedies have since been performed, under circumstances perfectly harmless; and even before that proof of the weakness of the measure, the public sympathised with the injured authors in loud murmurs, and rewarded them by liberal subscriptions.

'Tancred and Sigismunda,' the most successful of Thomson's tragedies, was first introduced on the stage in the year 1745; and for some time afterwards enjoyed its turn of revival. That fortune, however, is not likely soon to recur; and the fact may be taken as decisive of the capacity which the subject of this sketch had for theatrical compositions. His plays are good poems; but they fail to excite that tenderness, or rouse those terrors, which the deeper incidents and finer characters of older authors are sure to awaken. Thomson is diffuse in his stories, and prolix in his narrations; whereas tragedy, to earn its meed and command acclamation, should be concise and pithy in its action, and always have its plot rather actually developed than finely recounted.

Once more did Thomson's friends resume the seats of power, and again was he fortunate enough to share in the fruits brought forth by their political sunshine. His friend Mr. Lyttleton made him Surveyor-general of the Leeward Islands, a post which, after paying a deputy for the toils of service, left the principal a clear income of 300*l.* a year. It was under this enjoyment that he sent into the world the 'Castle of Indolence,' the last poem he lived to finish: for a final labour it was most studiously laboured, and accurately polished. It is a rich picture of luxury, finely imagined and floridly told; but has neither been read as carefully as the splendour of its beauties and the variety of its image

Digitized by Google

requires, nor praised as loudly as the exuberance of its charms deserves.

Thus doubly blessed with fortune and reputation was Thomson, when passing on the Thames from London to Kew, in the autumn of 1748, he caught a cold, which turned to a fever, and put an end to his life on the 27th of August, in the same year. He was buried at Richmond, without either monument or inscription, but his memory has been honourably dealt with in other places, and by various means. The tribute which entitles him to rank in these pages supplies a proof of the one fact, and the classical elegy of Collins may be gratefully referred to for evidence of the other.

After Thomson's death, his works were edited by his friend and patron, Sir George Lyttleton, and a tragedy, entitled 'Coriolanus, was acted for the benefit of his family. It has met the fate which every effort deserves, which presumes to emulate the Muse of Shakspeare, whether the hope be to rise where he soared, or to escape a fall where he failed. The 'Coriolanus' of Thomson is utterly forgotten. But there are more grateful observations to be made, not only upon his writings but upon his actions also. He was a fond relation and a faithful friend; his heart was generous and his hand open; and he never refused to give when he had the power to confer. He has been censured as a man infirm in purpose and frail in system; so much so, that even in his most prosperous days, his affairs were generally deranged; and we are also told, that he was so humbly convinced of this unconquerable fatuity, as to have designed an eastern tale, exemplary of his own character, the title of which was to have been '*The Man who Loved to be in Distress.*' As a poet, he is entitled to the highest rank and the greatest praise. The 'Seasons' are a composition of the most popular celebrity, and eminently merit all the eulogy that has been lavished upon them. The style of verse in them, the fashion of thought, and mode of expression, are all peculiar to the author and each happily successful. He sees every thing that can charm and delight in nature, and sets his copy before the reader, with the addition of every beauty which fancy can add, or genius conceive. His descriptions of scenery are admirably appropriate: when Nature varies, he changes sympathetically with her; is always light when she is lively, splendid when

Digitized by Google

she is magnificent, and awful when she is sublime. The 'Seasons' display at every turn and in every vicissitude, a mind the most florid, and an eloquence the most luxuriant—in fine, next to Milton, as the poet of blank verse, Thomson may justly rank without the fear of rejection or contempt.

To quote from the 'Seasons' were superfluous; they are exquisite and universally known; but from his tragedies, which are less frequently read, an extract may be made with interest, to prove that he was always a poet. The following description of Providence is finely true and imposing:—

> There is a power
> Unseen, that rules the illimitable world,
> That guides its motions, from the brightest star
> To the least dust of this sin-tainted mould;
> While man, who madly deems himself the lord
> Of all, is nought but weakness and dependance.
> This sacred truth by sure experience taught,
> Thou must have learned when wandering all alone,
> Each bird, each insect, flitting through the sky,
> Was more sufficient for itself, than thou.

Similar feelings of delight rise upon the following glowing description of the Princess, who was Scipio's prize by right of victory, but whom virtue nerved him to restore to her impassioned lover:—

> But what with admiration most
> Struck every heart was this:—a noble virgin
> Conspicuous far o'er all the captive dames,
> Was marked the general prize. She wept and blushed,
> Young, fresh, and blooming like the morn;—an eye
> As when the blue sky trembles through a cloud
> Of purest white;—a secret charm combined
> Her features, and infused enchantment through them;
> Her shape was harmony. But eloquence
> Beneath her beauty fails; which seemed on purpose
> By nature lavished on her, that mankind
> Might see the virtue of a hero tried.
> Soft as she passed along,—with downcast eyes,
> Where gentlest sorrows swelled, and now and then
> Dropped o'er her modest cheek a trickling tear—

Digitized by Google

The Roman legions languished, and hard war
Felt more than pity. Even their chief himself,
As on his high tribunal raised he sat,
Turned from the dangerous sight, and chiding asked,
If by this gift they meant
To cloud his virtue at its very dawn.

Again, the energy with which these lines are expressed, is not less admirable than the truth they unfold—that virtue is the only true nobility:

I tell thee, then, whoe'er among the sons
Of reason, valour, liberty, and virtue
Displays distinguished merit, is a noble
Of Nature's own creating. Such have risen,
Sprung from the dust, or where had been our honours?
And such in radiant bands will rise again
In yon immortal city, that when most
Depressed by fate and near apparent ruin,
Returns, as with an energy divine,
On her astonished foes, and shakes them from her.

There is no passage which can be quoted from the 'Castle of Indolence' that does not uphold the high character it has received, and perhaps there are no lines which exemplify it in a stronger style, than those with which it opens. The description is perfect.

In lowly vale, fast by a river's side,
With woody hill o'er hill encompass'd round,
A most enchanting wizard did abide,
Than whom a fiend more fell is nowhere found.
It was, I ween, a lovely spot of ground:
And there a season atween June and May,
Half prankt with spring, with summer half embrown'd
A listless climate made, where, sooth to say,
No living wight could work, nor cared e'en for play.

Was nought around but images of rest;
Sleep-soothing sounds, and quiet lawns between;
And flowery lawns with slumbrous influence kest,
From poppies breath'd; and beds of pleasant green,
Where never yet was creeping creature seen.
Meantime unnumber'd glittering streamlets play'd,

Digitized by Google

And hurled every where their water's sheen,
That as they bicker'd thro' the sunny glade,
Tho' restless, still themselves a lulling murmur made.

Full in the passage of the vale above,
A sable, silent, solemn forest stood;
Where nought but shadowy forms were seen to move,
As Idlesse fancied in her dreaming mood:
And up the hills on either side a wood
Of blackening pines, aye waving too and fro,
Sent forth a sleepy horror through the blood;
And where the valley winded out below,
The murmuring main was heard, and scarcely heard, to flow.

A pleasing land of drowsy head it was,
Of dreams that wave before the half-shut eye;
And of gay castles in the clouds that pass,
For ever flushing round a summer sky:
There eke the soft delights that witchingly
Instill a wanton sweetness through the breast,
And calm the pleasures, always hover'd nigh:
But whate'er smack'd of noyance and unrest,
Was far, far off expell'd from this delicious rest," &c.

ADMIRAL VERNON.

The memory of this intrepid and characteristic seaman is preserved in the north transept of Westminster Abbey, by a bust crowned with laurels by a figure of Fame, and profusely decorated with naval trophies. The inscription, which is sufficiently long and particular, follows thus:—

As a memorial of his own gratitude,
and of the virtues of his benefactor,
This monument was erected by his nephew, Francis

Digitized by Google

Lord Orwell, in the year 1763,
Sacred to the memory of
EDWARD VERNON,
Admiral of the White Squadron
of the British Fleet.
He was the second son of James Vernon,
Who was Secretary of State to King William III.
and whose abilities and integrity
were equally conspicuous.
In his youth he served under the Admirals
Shovel and Rook;
By their example he learned to conquer,
By his own merit he rose to command.
In the war with Spain of M,DCC,XXXIX.
he took the fort of Portobello
with six ships:
a force which was thought unequal to the attempt.
For this he received
the thanks of both Houses of Parliament.
He subdued Chagre; and at Carthagena
conquered as far as naval force
could carry victory.
After these services he retired,
without place or title,
from the exercise of public,
to the enjoyment of private, virtue.
The testimony of a good conscience
was his reward;
The love and esteem of all good men
his glory.
In battle, though calm, he was active,
and though intrepid, prudent;
successful, yet not ostentatious,
ascribing the glory to God.
In the Senate he was disinterested, vigilant, and steady;
On the XXX day of October, M,DCC,LVII.
He died, as he had lived,
the friend of man, the lover of his country,
and the father of the poor,
Aged LXXIII.

Digitized by Google

Edward Vernon, thus eminently renowned, was descended from a family equally illustrious, which first settled in England at the Norman Conquest. He was born at Westminster, on the 12th of November, 1684. His father filled the post of Secretary of State during the reign of William and Mary, and originally designed his son for the honours of a civil employment; but the predilections of nature were too decisive for control, and it was reluctantly agreed that the sea should be the wide theatre of the boy's ambition. This point once understood, his mind was directed with singular steadiness and success to those studies which were most conducive to the interests of the chosen pursuits. He made his first voyage under Vice-admiral Hopson, when the French fleet and Spanish galleons were destroyed in the harbour of Vigo. His employment now became constant, and the services he was engaged in were of the most varied and beneficial description. In 1702 he was second lieutenant in an expedition against the West Indies, under Commodore Walker; and in 1704, was at the battle of Malaga, and served with Sir George Rooke, to convoy the King of Spain to Lisbon, on which occasion he received a costly ring with a present of one hundred guineas, as a mark of particular favour from the hands of the monarch. In 1705 he was promoted to the rank of Post Captain, and appointed to command the Dolphin frigate, in which he sailed to the Mediterranean, and was present under Sir John Leake, at the surrender of Alicant. Transferred by that commander to the Rye, he was dispatched to England with the news of victory; but returned to the same station without delay, and there continued under the flag of Sir Cloudesly Shovel, though without any opportunity of particular distinction until the close of the year 1707.

Early in the year 1708, however, he was appointed to the Jersey frigate of 48 guns, and sailed to the West Indies, in company with a reinforcement for the squadron under Sir Charles Wager, who then commanded that station. On his arrival at Jamaica, the Jersey was employed as a cruiser, and Vernon's success was highly honourable to his vigilance and activity. Continuing in the same ship, he remained in the West Indies till nearly the end of the war; and in the month of May, 1711, being on a cruize to the windward of Jamaica, captured a French ship belonging to the port of Brest, which carried 30 guns, and 120 men. During the remainder of the summer the

Digitized by Google

Jersey composed one of the squadron, under Commodore Littleton, which was employed to watch the movements of the enemy in the port of Carthagena.

The peace of Utretcht, which came to pass soon after, and gave almost thirty years of repose to Europe, when the tranquillity of half the nations of the civilized world had been disturbed for a period of nearly equal duration, by the profligate ambition of Louis XIV. placed Captain Vernon, with many other naval characters of the highest merit, during the greatest part of that time, in the obscurity of a private station. Hence there is little to record of him, save a few inconsequential appointments, which only serve to show the estimation in which his professional abilities and experience were held. In the year 1714, he led the Assistance of 50 guns, one of the fleet sent to the Baltic, under Sir George Norris, to assist the Russians against the Swedes; and in 1726 commanded the Grafton of 70 guns, one of the armament under Sir Charles Wager, sent to the same quarter, to preserve the peace of the northern states of Europe.

On the accession of George the II. to the throne, in 1727, Vernon was chosen member of parliament for the borough of Penryn, in Cornwall, and soon distinguished himself by an active opposition to the pacific measures of Sir Robert Walpole's administration. As a frequent speaker in the House of Commons, he was one of that minister's most troublesome opponents, and stoutly contended that his moderation was injurious to the honour of the country. He had no pretensions, indeed, to those higher graces of speech, which by pre-eminence constitute oratory; nor was there much of logical arrangement in his arguments; but he possessed a sufficient readiness of words, and always delivered his opinions with generous warmth and manly freedom. His style was not that of a man educated at the bar, or in the senate, whose language is uttered according to the scientific rules of disputation, and who with equal facility can espouse either side of the question: on the contrary, his opinions, which were always forcibly pronounced, invariably proceeded from a conviction of rectitude in his own mind, and this conviction, which was perhaps most apparent when his judgment erred, as at such times it assumed a more positive air, wrought greater effects on his auditory, than axioms better founded, and dictated by more eloquent men, could

Digitized by Google

have produced. He spoke, perhaps, too often for his reputation as a parliamentary debater; for on many occasions, where neither experience lent him aid, nor the habits of his life had been favourable to the acquisition of such kind of knowledge as the matter argued required, he appeared foremost in the ranks of opposition. Though a copious speaker, and one who never wanted words, he seldom looked as if he had exhausted all that his mind could furnish to elucidate a subject; but having said much, and apparently all that could be advanced, seemed to possess a fund of information superior still to what he had displayed. From a constitutional violence of temper, he was quick and impetuous in debate, and often let fall unguarded observations, which in his cooler moments he would probably have been happy to have retracted. The expedition against Porto Bello is supposed to have originated from some hasty expressions which he uttered in the debates relative to the aggressions of the Spanish *guarda costos* in the American seas. For, reproaching the administration with the shameful inactivity of their measures, he pledged himself to reduce the town of Porto Bello with a force not exceeding six sail of the line, and the ministers accepted his offer: glad, perhaps, of an opportunity to remove so obnoxious an opponent from the House of Commons, and as probably not without a secret wish that he might disgrace himself and his party, by failing to execute what he boasted could be so easily achieved.

Thus, taken at his word, new dignities were necessarily conferred upon him, and on the 9th of July, 1739, he was advanced to the rank of Vice-admiral of the Blue, and appointed Commander-in-chief of all his Majesty's ships in the West Indies. The force he had required being collected, he hoisted his flag on board the Burford, of 70 guns, and sailed with his fleet for Jamaica, where he arrived on the 23d of October. Having refitted his squadron with the utmost diligence, he was enabled to sail from Port Royal on the 5th of November, with the following ships:—

Burford	70	Vice-admiral Vernon. Captain T. Watson.
Hampton Court	70	Commodore Brown. Captain Dent.

Digitized by Google

Norwich.....50.....Robert Herbert.
Worcester.....60..... Perry Mayne.
Stafford.....60.....T. Trevor.
Princess Louisa..60.....T. Waterhouse.
Sheerness frigate.

On the 7th, the squadron being still at sea, the admiral delivered his orders to the commodore and captains, appointing the following dispositions for the attack:—"Upon making the land of Porto Bello, and having a fair wind to favour them, and daylight for the attempt, to have their ships clear in all respects for immediate service; and, on the proper signal, to form themselves into a line of battle, as directed; and being formed, to follow in the same order of battle to the attack, in the manner hereafter directed. And as the north shore of the harbour of Porto Bello is represented to the admiral to be bold and steep, on which, at the first entrance stands Castle de Ferro, or Iron Castle,* Commodore Brown and the ships following him are directed to pass a cable's length distance, giving the enemy, as they move, as warm a fire as possible, both from great guns and musquetry: then Commodore Brown is to steer away for Gloria Castle, and anchor as near as he can to the easternmost part of it, for the purpose of battering down the defences; but so as to leave room for Captain Mayne, in the Worcester, to anchor astern of him against the westernmost bastion, and there do the same, and to follow such orders as the Commodore may think proper to give him for attacking the said castle. Captain Herbert, of the Norwich, after giving his fire at the Iron Castle, is to push for the castle of St. Jeronimo, lying to the eastward of the town, and to anchor as near it as he possibly can, and batter it down; and Captain Trevor, in the Stafford, following the Admiral, to come to an anchor abreast of the easternmost part of the Iron Castle, so as to leave room for Captain Waterhouse, in the Princess Louisa, to anchor astern of him, to batter the westernmost part of the castle, and continue there until the service is com-

* Castle de Ferro, or the Iron Castle, was built on a steep rock at the N. E. point of the bay, and Gloria Castle on the opposite side, on an ascent a little nearer the town, which, with Fort Jeronimo, were built by the King of Spain, on account of the importance of the place in trade, after Sir Henry Morgan's expedition, in 1668.

Digitized by Google

pleted, and make themselves masters of it: the youngest officers to follow the further orders of the elder in the prosecution of the attack; and if the weather is favourable for it on going in, each ship, besides having its long-boat towing astern, to have its barge alongside to tow the long-boats away, with such part of the soldiers as can conveniently go in them, and to come under the admiral's stern, for his directing a descent with them where he shall find it most proper to order. From the men's inexperience in service, it would be necessary to be as cautious as possible, to prevent hurry and confusion, and a fruitless waste of powder and shot; the captains to give the strictest orders to their respective officers, to take the greatest care that no gun is fired but what they, or those whom they particularly appoint, first see levelled, and direct the discharge of; and that they shall strictly prohibit all their men from hallooing or making irregular noise, that may only serve to throw them into confusion, till the service be performed, and when they have nothing to do but glory in the victory. Such of the ships as have mortars and cohorns on board are ordered to use them in the attack."

On the 20th of November the squadron came in sight of Porto Bello, and there being little wind, the admiral made the signal to anchor about six leagues from the shore, lest he should be driven eastward from the harbour. The next morning he plied to windward in line of battle, but the breeze proving easterly, he was obliged to confine his attack to the Iron Castle alone. The Hampton Court, in the van, began the assault with great fury, and was soon assisted by the Norwich and Worcester. To these ships the admiral came up soon after, and kept on so severe a fire, that the Spaniards deserted their batteries, and fled for security to their ambuscades. This being once perceived, the signal was made for landing, and so promptly obeyed, that in a few minutes the seamen and troops were safely debarked in the front of the enemy's lower battery, with the loss of only two soldiers. As a substitute for scaling ladders, one man set himself close to the wall under an embrasure, whilst another climbed upon his shoulders, and entered the fort under the mouth of a great gun; daring means, by which, in a very few minutes, the Spanish flag was quickly seized, and the British colours hoisted in its place on the platform. The Spaniards in the castle, struck with consternation at the boldness of the assailants, hung out the white flag, and sur-

Digitized by Google

rendered at discretion. On the following day the Castles of St. Jeronimo and Gloria capitulated with honourable conditions, and the British forces were put in full possession of Porto Bello and its dependencies.

The loss sustained in killed and wounded did not exceed twenty men, of which three were killed and five wounded on board Vernon's ship. The intelligence of this important conquest, effected with unprecedented ease and expedition, was received in England with the liveliest emotions of joy: both houses of Parliament voted their thanks to the admiral for his conduct, and the Corporation of London presented him with the freedom of the city in a gold box. The name of Vernon excited a degree of enthusiasm unparalleled on any other occasion; medals were struck in his honour, and his effigy was displayed throughout the kingdom.

In his conduct towards the vanquished foe, the admiral was as distinguished for his humanity, as he had been for his gallantry in attacking them. The soldiers and seamen were strictly prohibited from plundering the inhabitants of the town; and, to reward their merit, he distributed among them 10,000 dollars, which had been sent to Porto Bello, for the payment of the garrison, a few days before the place fell into the hands of the English. As it had never been the intention of government to retain Porto Bello, which from its unhealthiness was termed by the Spaniards *the grave of the new world*, the admiral directed the ordnance found in the castles and fort to be spiked and destroyed, except forty pieces of brass cannon, ten field-pieces, four mortars, and eighteen patteraroes, all of the same metal, which were taken on board the fleet, and held as trophies of the victory, on account of their intrinsic value. The fortifications were then blown up, and completely ruined, that the place might no longer afford an asylum to the *guarda costos*, whose chief point of rendezvous it had been for a series of years, to annoy the British commerce in that quarter by incessant depredations. These different services performed, the admiral sailed from Porto Bello on the 16th of December, and shortly afterwards arrived in safety at Jamaica.

Having refitted his ships, Vernon, anxious of an opportunity of again distinguishing himself, sailed from Port Royal on the 25th of February, 1740, and on the 1st of March, made the highlands of St. Martha, on the Spanish main, whence he bore away for Carthagena. On the 3d, in the evening, he an-

Digitized by Google

chored with his squadron before the town, in nine fathom water, in the open bay called *Playa Granda.* On the 6th he began a bombardment; and in three days discharged about three hundred and fifty bombs, which destroyed several edifices, and did considerable damage to the town; but the force he had with him being inadequate to a regular attack, he bore away with the fleet to Porto Bello. Having repaired his damages, and completed the water of his squadron, the next object of his attack was the Castle of Chagre, situate at the entrance of the river of that name, a few leagues distant from Porto Bello. He passed up with the tide, on the 18th of the month, and spent only two days in bombarding the castle, when it surrendered at discretion, and he blew up the fortifications. The plate, merchandize, &c., which were of great value, were taken on board the squadron, and on the 30th he returned to Porto Bello, and thence to Jamaica, where the fleet lay for some time inactive, being in want of stores and supplies from Europe.

The easy reduction of Porto Pello determined the government at home to send out such a reinforcement to the West Indies as should enable Vernon to attack the most formidable of the Spanish settlements in the New World. A fleet consisting of twenty-five sail of the line, under the command of Rear-admiral Sir Chaloner Ogle, with a proportionate number of frigates, and a large body of transports, having on board upwards of ten thousand land forces, was accordingly dispatched from England to his support. The military were conducted by Lord Cathcart, a nobleman of high character and great military experience, but who died, unhappily for the expectations of his country, soon after his arrival in the West Indies. The vacant rank thus devolved on General Wentworth, an officer without judgment or experience, and utterly unqualified for the important post of a commander-in-chief. His armament joined Admiral Vernon, at Jamaica, on the 9th of January, 1741, and the force under his direction then amounted to thirty-one sail of the line.

With this fleet, the most powerful that had ever been collected in the American seas, he sailed from Jamaica on the 28th of January. The first object was to proceed off Port Louis, in the island of Saint Domingo, in order to ascertain the strength and intentions of a French squadron, which was supposed to be at anchor in that harbour, and against which the admiral thought

Digitized by Google

it necessary to be on his guard, as he had strong reason to believe the disposition of the French cabinet was unfavourable to the interests of Great Britain. Arrived off the isle of Vache, about two leagues from Port Louis, on the 12th of February, he learnt that the French squadron had sailed for Europe, in great distress for provisions, and with a dreadful mortality raging through the crew. The receipt of this intelligence led to a council of war, composed of Admirals Vernon and Sir Chaloner Ogle, and Generals Wentworth and Guise, in which it was resolved that, after having taken in water and wood in Tiberoon Bay, they should proceed to Carthagena, on which place they resolved to make a vigorous attack both by sea and land.

The fleet anchored on the 4th of March in Playa Granda Bay, where Vernon made the necessary dispositions for landing the troops and conducting the attack, and issued his instructions to the rear-admiral and captains of the squadron. On the 9th, the admiral, with his own division, and that of Sir Chaloner Ogle, followed by all the transports, got under weigh, and brought to under the fort of Bocca Chica, which defends the entrance of the harbour. The following description of Carthagena will probably render an account of the operations which took place against it more intelligible. Carthagena la Neuva, or New Carthagena (so called to distinguish it from Carthagena in Old Spain), lies south of Jamaica, on the continent of Spanish America, to the east of the gulf of Darien, in lat. 10°. 26. N. long. 75 W. Its foundations were only laid in 1532, and in about eight years it became a stately, rich, and well-inhabited city. It has one of the noblest basins, or harbours, in the world, being some leagues in circumference, and land-locked on all sides. The entrance is defended by the strong castle of Bocca Chica, and three lesser forts. Between this harbour and the town run two necks of land, on which are the strong fortresses of Castillo Granda, and fort Manzanella, which defend the lesser harbour that touches on to the town. There is, likewise, fort St. Lazar, which protects the town on the land side, and though the sea beats against the walls, there can be no approach to them, in consequence of the formidable violence of the surf, save directly through the harbours already described. The first successes of the assailants promised a speedy and honourable termination of their enterprize. In less than an hour the enemy were driven

Digitized by Google

by the fire of the shipping from the forts of Chamba, St. Jago, and St. Philip, which mounted in all forty guns, and in the evening a detachment of grenadiers was landed, which took possession of them. The next day, the regiments of Harrison and Wentworth, and six regiments of marines, were landed without opposition, and by the 15th, all the artillery and stores of the army were brought on shore. The following day, the general informed the admiral that his camp was much incommoded by the fire from a fascine battery on the west shore of Barradera side, and Captains Watson and Boscawen, having under them Captains Law and Coats, with 300 soldiers, and a detachment of seamen, were therefore ordered to destroy it. This party was surprised upon landing by a masked battery of five guns, which immediately commenced a heavy fire on them: but they soon obtained possession of it; and then they proceeded to storm the battery. Of this, too, they soon made themselves master, with very inconsiderable loss, although it mounted twenty 24-pounders, and was guarded by a proportionate number of men. Having spiked the cannon, and destroyed the platforms and carriages, the detachment returned with some prisoners to the fleet, and Vernon was so pleased with the spirit and boldness evinced on this occasion, that he gave a reward of a dollar to each common man.

This success proved an inexpressible relief to the army, and the general began to bombard the castle of Bocca Chica, against which, on the 22d, he opened a battery of twenty 24-pounders. On the 23d, Commodore Lestock was ordered in, to batter the castle on the west side with five ships; a service which he performed with the greatest bravery, though exposed to a very hot fire, by which the gallant Lord Aubrey Beauclerk,* captain of the Prince

* This young nobleman has a monument in the north cross aisle of Westminster Abbey. The design is plain, consisting only of a pedestal and pyramid, into which is sunk a niche, which contains a neat bust. The inscriptions are in poetry and in prose:—

While Britain boasts her empire o'er the deep,
This marble shall compel the brave to weep;
As men, as Britons, and as soldiers, mourn—
'Tis dauntless, loyal, virtuous Beauclerk's urn.

Digitized by Google

Frederic, was killed. A tolerable breach being made in the castle, the general determined to carry it by assault, and accordingly the necessary preparations were made for that purpose. On the 25th, at midnight, the troops marched to the attack, and no sooner entered the breach, than the enemy, to their great surprise, fled from the castle without firing a gun. Captain Knowles, of the Litchfield, observing the dismay and confusion of the Spaniards, immediately landed his men, and stormed Fort St. Joseph, the garrison of which deserted their guns with like precipitation.

The enemy, alarmed at these successes, prepared to sink some of their ships in the channel, leading into the inner harbour, in order to prevent the nearer approach of the British fleet, which

Sweet were his manners as his soul was great,
And ripe his worth, though immature his fate;
Each tender grace that joy and love inspire,
Living, he mingled with his martial fire;
Dying he bid Britannia's thunder roar,
And Spain still felt him when he breath'd no more.

Lord Aubrey Beauclerk was the youngest son of Charles, Duke of St. Albans, by Diana, daughter of Aubrey de Vere, Earl of Oxford. He went early to sea, and was made a commander in 1731. In 1740 he was sent upon that memorable expedition to Carthagena, under the command of Admiral Vernon, in his Majesty's ship the Prince Frederick, which, with three others, were ordered to cannonade the Castle Bocca Chica. One of these being obliged to quit her station, the Prince Frederick was exposed not only to the fire from the Castle, but to that of Fort St. Joseph, and to two ships that guarded the mouth of the harbour, which he sustained for many hours that day, and part of the next, with uncommon intrepidity. As he was giving his command upon deck, both his legs were shot off; but such was his magnanimity, that he would not suffer his wounds to be dressed till he had communicated his orders to the First Lieutenant, which were—*To fight his ship to the last extremity.* Soon after this he gave some directions about his private affairs, and then resigned his soul with the dignity of a hero and a Christian. Thus was he taken off in the thirty-first year of his age; an illustrious commander of superior fortitude and clemency, amiable in his person, steady in his affections, and equalled by few in the social and domestic virtues of politeness, modesty, candour, and benevolence. He married the widow of Colonel F. Alexander, a daughter of Sir H. Newton, Knt. Envoy Extraordinary to the Court of Florence and the Republic of Genoa, and Judge of the High Court of Admiralty.

Digitized by Google

Admiral Vernon perceiving, directed the seamen to board, and take possession of as many of them as possible. This could not be carried so speedily into execution, but that the Spaniards had time to sink the Africa and the Don Carlos, two 70 gun ships, and set fire to the St. Philip of 60 guns, which blew up. The seamen, however, boarded and took the Gallicia of 80 guns, the Spanish admiral's ship, and succeeded in bringing her off. They next proceeded to cut the boom which was moored across the channel; and the following day, the admiral, with several of the ships of war, warped into the inner harbour. Fortune continuing to favour the assailants, the Spaniards abandoned the strong fort of Castillo Granda, and about the same time deserted Fort Manzanella, on the opposite shore.

After surmounting so many difficulties with such facility, and forcing the narrow channel, defended by a strong castle, three forts, a boom, four ships of the line, and two batteries, we need not wonder that the besiegers entertained the most sanguine hopes of their ultimate success, and thought that little remained for them to do, but to take possession of Carthagena. A ship was accordingly dispatched to England with intelligence to this effect, and public rejoicings were made over the whole kingdom, scarcely inferior to what might have been, had the absolute conquest of the place occurred. Vernon was undoubtedly persuaded, after the ease with which he had overcome past difficulties, that Carthagena must inevitably surrender; but in this instance he had formed his opinion too hastily, and was destined to experience the severe mortification of a repulse.

In the early part of April the troops became very sickly, and died in great numbers: but what was most prejudicial to the service was, that the cordiality between the commanders-in-chief, so requisite for conducting with success the conjoint operations of a fleet and an army, can scarcely be said to have ever existed between Vernon and Wentworth. The only point that was wanting to complete the reduction of Carthagena, was Fort St. Lazar; and as the Spaniards were daily throwing up new works, and making all possible preparations to defend themselves to the last extremity, the general, who was severely reproached by Vernon for his inactivity, determined, without consulting the latter, to attempt to carry the place by storm. Generals Blacke-

Digitized by Google

ney and Wolfe protested against this as a rash and fruitless measure; and, as these experienced officers had foretold, the enterprize completely failed, and more than six hundred men, the flower of the British army, were killed in the attack.

After this desperate and injudicious attempt, the besiegers gave up all hopes of being able to reduce the place; and the rainy season set in with a violence, which rendered it impossible for the troops to live on shore.* They were, therefore, re-embarked after the fleet had made an unsuccessful attempt to bombard the town; and the armament returned to Jamaica, having lost in the different attacks, and by sickness, upwards of three thousand men. The fortifications which had fallen into the hands of the English were destroyed, under the direction of Captains Knowles and Boscawen, and the damage thus done to the Spaniards was supposed to amount to half a million sterling.

The fleet arrived at Jamaica on the 19th of May; and soon after, the admiral, agreeable to instructions he had received from the ministry, sent Commodore Lestock to Europe with eleven sail of the line, and the homeward-bound trade under his convoy. While the remaining ships of war and transports were refitting at Port Royal, it was agreed in a council of war, assembled at the governor's house, on the 26th of May, that an attack should be made on the island of Cuba; and Vernon, anxious to wipe away from the British arms the stain of their ill success at Carthagena, exerted himself to the utmost to render his department fit for service. A supply of naval stores from England, with three thousand recruits for the army, enabled the expedition to sail from Jamaica on the 1st of July. The force under Vernon consisted of eight ships of the line, one of fifty guns, twelve frigates, fire-ships, and small vessels of war, and a fleet of forty transports and store-ships, and with these he anchored in Wal-

* The heat is excessive and continual at Carthagena, and the torrents of water that are incessantly pouring down, from May to November, have this singularity, that they never cool the air, which is only a little moderated, during the dry season, by the North-east winds. The night is as hot as the day. Hence the inhabitants, wasted by profuse perspiration, have the pale and livid appearance of sick persons; all their motions are languid and sluggish; their speech is soft and slow; and their words generally broken and interrupted.

Digitized by Google

thenham bay, on the south side of the island of Cuba, on the 18th of July. The following day the troops were landed without opposition, and encamped in a plentiful country. Vernon, with his usual sanguine disposition, changed the name of the port he had taken possession of into Cumberland harbour, and sent a dispatch to England expressive of his hopes, that the whole island of Cuba would soon be in possession of the British forces.

It was resolved, in a council of war, that the troops should march overland to St. Jago, a town of considerable extent, about sixty miles from Walthenham bay, which was reported to be wholly defenceless on the land side, while the difficulties of the navigation secured it from any danger of an attack by sea. Nothing, however, of moment was attempted in consequence of this resolution. The general continued inactive, save in occasionally sending out a few small desultory parties, which rarely met with any to oppose them: and at length informed the admiral, that he feared it would be impossible for him to penetrate to St. Jago by land. In consequence of this representation, the troops were re-embarked on the 20th of October, and soon after returned to Jamaica.

About this time Vernon wrote to the Duke of Newcastle, then Secretary of State, earnestly soliciting to be recalled, and requesting, as the only favour he should ask of the crown, that his conduct in the expeditions against Carthagena and Cuba might be strictly and publicly enquired into. He assured the duke that, "until such orders should arrive, he would forward every service for the honour of his king and country with the utmost care and diligence, daily praying for a deliverance from being conjoined to a gentleman, whose opinions he had observed to be more changeable than the moon, though he had endeavoured, agreeable to his orders, to maintain the most civil correspondence in his power with General Wentworth." When such was the opinion entertained by Vernon of his colleague, and posterity has not reversed it, can it excite surprise that the operations should have been attended with so little success? or can we hesitate where to attach the blame of miscarriage?

A reinforcement of two thousand marines, with two ships of fifty guns and a frigate, having arrived from England on the 25th of January, 1742, Vernon once more began to entertain hopes,

Digitized by Google

that he should be able, by some successful enterprize, to obliterate the disgrace of the two former fruitless expeditions. After frequent councils of war, which appear to have been held too often for the good of the service,* it was determined to land at Porto Bello, and, after marching across the isthmus of Darien, to attack Panama, a rich town situate on the South Sea, which Sir Henry Morgan, having formerly marched across the isthmus, with five hundred buccaneers, had taken with little difficulty. Accordingly the necessary preparations were made for the expedition, and the admiral put to sea about the middle of March, with eight sail of the line, five smaller vessels, and forty transports, having on board three thousand effective men, besides a body of five hundred negroes, raised for the expedition by General Trelawney, the governor of Jamaica, who accompanied it himself with several volunteers.

The armament arrived at Porto Bello, after a tedious passage of three weeks, occasioned by contrary winds and tempestuous seas. The Spaniards, on the appearance of the British fleet, immediately quitted the town and fled to Panama, so that the troops landed without opposition. Vernon now believed that something decisive might be effected against the enemy; but great was his mortification to learn that it was resolved in a council of war, composed solely of land officers, to give up the enterprize; and, after many ineffectual remonstrances, he was obliged to re-embark the troops a very few days after they were landed. The fleet returned again to Jamaica, and nothing of consequence occurred during the subsequent part of the time that Admiral Vernon held the chief command on that station. In the month of September an order arrived at Port Royal for the admiral and general to return home. In December the admiral took his passage in the Boyne for England, and was soon after followed by Wentworth with the soldiers that survived.

Before the departure of Vernon from the West Indies, he

* It is related of the great Duke of Marlborough, that he never held a council of war, until he had previously determined in his own mind how he would act; and, whatever might be the opinion of the council, he invariably adhered to his own. On what sound judgment this method of acting was formed, the glorious life of that illustrious general can best elucidate.

Digitized by Google

addressed the Secretary of State, informing him, "that he could not be insensible how great a concern the disappointments on the several expeditions must have been to his majesty; but begged leave, at the same time, to say, in behalf of himself and the officers and men that had served under his command, that no part of the disappointment was justly to be attributed to the sea forces: nor did he think it was in want of courage or inclination to serve his majesty in the land forces; but that this unhappy event was principally owing to the command falling into the hands of General Wentworth, who had approved himself no way equal to it. And though the vice-admiral pretended to little experience in military affairs, yet it was his opinion, that if the sole command had been entrusted to him, the British forces would have failed in neither of the expeditions, but would have made themselves masters both of Carthagena and St. Jago, and with the loss of much fewer men than had died through the imprudent conduct of General Wentworth." It must also be observed that this opinion was embraced by the nation at large, and Vernon's popularity suffered no diminution from the reverses of fortune he had experienced, while acting in conjunction with General Wentworth.

After his return to England, Vernon continued unemployed till the memorable year 1745. During his retirement, being passed over in a promotion of flag officers, he wrote the following indignant and sarcastic letter to the Admiralty, which is so excellent in its kind, and so characteristic of the temper and feelings of the writer, that no apology can hardly be requisite for its insertion here:—

"Nacton, June 30, 1744.

"Sir,

"As we that live retired in the country often content ourselves with the information we derive from the newspapers on a market-day, I did not so early observe the advertisement from your office of the 23d of this month, that, in pursuance of his Majesty's pleasure, the right honourable the lords commissioners of the admiralty had made the following promotions therein mentioned, in which I could not but perceive there was no mention of my name amongst the flag officers, though by letters of the 10th

Digitized by Google

instant, you directed to me as vice-admiral of the red, and, by their lordship's orders, desired my opinion on an affair of his Majesty's service, which I very honestly gave them, as I judged most conducive to his honour, so that their lordships could not be uninformed that I was in the land of the living.

" Though promotions are said to be made by their lordships' orders, yet we all know the communication of his Majesty's pleasure must come from the first lord in commission, from whom principally his Majesty is supposed to receive the information, on which his royal orders are founded; and as it is a known maxim in our law, that the King can do no wrong, founded, as I apprehend, on the persuasion that the crown never does so but from the misinformation of those whose respective provinces are to inform his Majesty of the particular affairs under their care, the first suggestion that naturally occurs to an officer, that has the fullest testimonies in his custody of having happily served his Majesty in the command he was intrusted with, to his royal approbation, is, that your first commissioner must either have informed his Majesty that I was dead, or have laid something to my charge, rendering me unfit to rise in my rank in the royal navy; of which, being insensible myself, I desire their lordships would be pleased to inform me in what it consists, having, both in action and advice, always, to the best of my judgment, endeavoured to serve our royal master with a zeal and activity becoming a faithful and loyal subject, and having hitherto received the public approbation of your board. I confess, at my time of life, a retirement from the hurry of business, to prepare for the general audit, which every Christian ought to have perpetually in his mind, is what cannot but be desirable, and might rather give occasion to rejoice than any concern, which (I thank God) it does very little; yet, that I might not be thought by any one to have declined the public service, I have thought proper to remind their lordships I am living, and have (I thank God) the same honest zeal reigning in my breast, that has animated me on all occasions to approve myself a faithful and zealous subject and servant to my royal master: and if the first lord commissioner, Daniel, Earl of Winchelsea, has represented me in any other light to my royal master, he has acted with a degeneracy unbecoming the descend-

Digitized by Google

ant of a noble father, whose memory I reverence and esteem, though I have no compliments to make to the judgment or conduct of the son, &c. &c.

"EDWARD VERNON."

"To Thomas Corbett, Esq.
Secretary to the Admiralty."

That Vernon was passed over without promotion was perhaps less the result of any design to underrate his gallantry and talents; than the ordinary consequence of a general state of peace. That his capacity was fully rated, is proved by the fact that, upon the first prospect of danger—in the spring of the year 1745, he was promoted to be Admiral of the White, and appointed to command a squadron of observation in the North sea, to watch the French equipments at Dunkirk and elsewhere, which were evidently intended for the invasion of Great Britain. The grandson of James the II. encouraged by promises of support from the French ministry, and allured by invitations from the disaffected in Scotland and England, determined to make an attempt to recover the crown of his ancestors, and at that time the kingdom beheld itself with the utmost consternation on the point of being invaded by a foreigner, supported in his claims by the power of France. At such a crisis the voice of the nation imperiously demanded that the ablest commanders should be called into service, and Admiral Vernon's appointment was received with universal approbation.

In the month of August, Admiral Vernon had his flag flying on board the St. George, in Portsmouth harbour, but soon after shifted it to the Norwich, and sailed to the Downs, to watch the French armaments in the opposite ports. This period of his commands was, perhaps, the most interesting of his whole life; and it is but bare justice to his memory to confess, that no man could have been more diligent or more successful in that particular service to which the necessities of his country called him.

He continued in this station till the first of January, 1746, when, in consequence of some disputes with the board of admiralty, he was ordered by the lords commissioners to strike his flag. He obeyed, and was never afterwards employed in

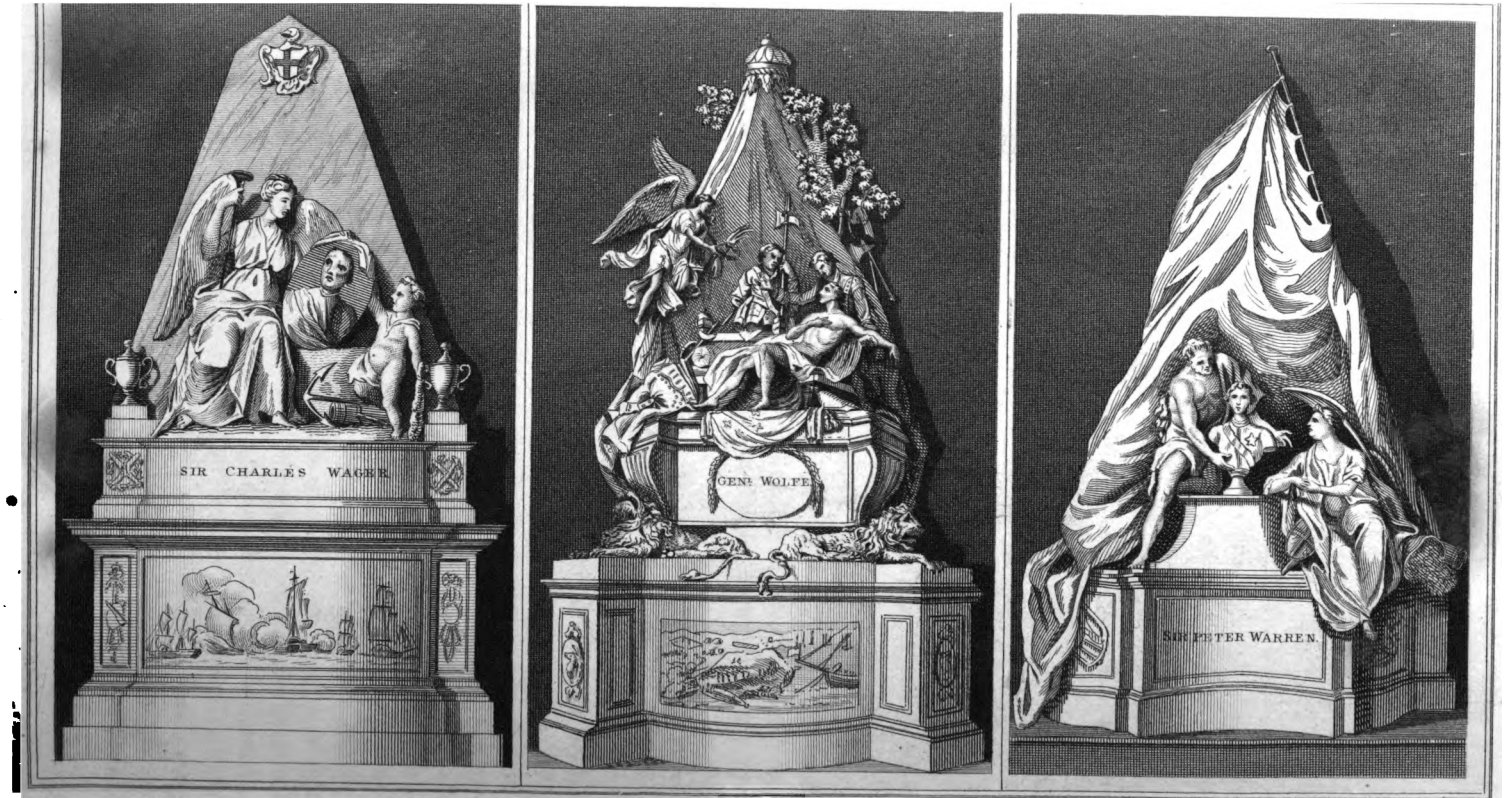
Digitized by Google

his Majesty's service. Various reasons have been assigned for the disagreement between Vernon and the board of Admiralty. There were probably faults on both sides. The naval administration of that period was feeble and imbecile, and he was not a man to conceal his sentiments. Constitutional pride, popular favour, and the self-consciousness of no ordinary degree of desert, had rendered Vernon, who was naturally of a lofty disposition, unaccommodating, and systematically blunt in manner and in principle. He submitted to his compulsive retirement with the greatest impatience, and published some pamphlets in vindication of his character. In these he is said to have inserted some private correspondence between himself and the board of Admiralty, the publication of which gave such offence to the King, that, by his Majesty's especial command, he was struck off the list of admirals. This happened on the 11th of April, 1746, and he was never afterwards restored to his rank. From this period he lived almost totally in retirement, troubling himself but seldom with public affairs, though attending the House of Commons as member for the borough of Ipswich. He died suddenly at his seat at Nacton, in Suffolk, on the 30th of October, 1757, in the 73d year of his age

Such was Admiral Vernon; in his actions always commanding respect, and often exciting admiration; and yet he lived the sport and died the prey of political rancour. Highly as every Briton must value the institutions of his country, exult in their liberality, and uphold their justice; yet is he undeserving of the blessings they confer, who can reflect upon the life and neglect of Vernon without a mingled feeling of sorrow and indignation. Here was a man, courageous to excess, and in the skill of his profession without a superior, whose integrity was as unimpeachable as his intrepidity was unconquerable; a man who had fought and bled and conquered for his country over and over and over again; and yet, during the whole course of his long career, no one post of honour or emolument—no, nor one title or distinction was ever conferred upon him in acknowledgment of the important benefits he rendered to his country. And how miserable is the only reason to be assigned for all this ingratitude and insult! Vernon honestly disapproved of the political measures pursued by the minister of the day; and for this, and nothing but this, he

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google



LONDON.
Published by John Williams 41 Pakemoster Row.
Sept 1827

Digitized by Google

was first denied employment, and after he had deserved it for a constancy, still for the same reason degraded from his rank and dismissed from the service of his country. But that country was more just, more generous, and more grateful, than either the king it had so flatteringly chosen to govern it, or the ministers whom it permitted to direct his affairs and dispense his favours. That country always did justice to the extraordinary merits of Admiral Vernon, and never heard his name but with acclamation. His conscience was his solace, and his fame his reward. Such are the honours of a patriot and a hero.

SIR CHARLES WAGER.

THIS Admiral has a large monument in the north transept of Westminster Abbey. Upon a neatly wrought double pedestal sits a figure of Fame, holding a portrait of the deceased, which is supported on the other side by an infant Hercules. So far the design, being allegorical, is bad; but the statues are finely wrought, and bear a natural expression. The back-ground is sheltered by a pyramid, under the apex of which is placed a coat of arms. The lower pedestal is occupied by a piece of alto relievo, descriptive of the capture of the Spanish galleons, in 1708, and the upper is filled with the inscription which runs thus:—

To the memory of SIR CHARLES WAGER, Knt.
Admiral of the White, First Commissioner of the
Admiralty, and Privy Counsellor:
A man of great natural talents,
Who bore the highest commands,
And passed through the greatest employments,

Digitized by Google

With credit to himself, and honour to his country.
He was in private life
Humane, temperate, just, and bountiful:
In public station
Valiant, prudent, wise, and honest;
Easy of access to all:
Plain and unaffected in his manners,
Steady and resolute in his conduct;
So remarkably happy in his presence of mind, that
no danger ever discomposed him.
Esteemed and favoured by his King,
Beloved and honoured by his country,
He died May 24, 1743, aged 77.

No fact is known respecting the life of Wager until the year 1692, when he appears to have become Captain of the Ruzee. From this date he continued constantly in active, but uninteresting employment: in 1695 he commanded the Woolwich, of 54 guns, in the Channel, under Sir Cloudesly Shovel, shifted his commission to a guard-ship in 1699, and in 1703 obtained the Hampton-Court, of 70 guns, and was sent to cruise along the coast of France, with a commodore's flag. In this rank, however, he effected nothing memorable, and can only be supposed to have merited his subsequent promotion by a display of general talents.

On the 10th of April, 1707, he sailed from Plymouth, at the head of nine ships of war, which were destined to escort forty-five merchantmen, and to protect our West Indian possessions from the encroachments of the French. Arrived at his station, after a prosperous voyage, he acquired very high credit for the attention he paid to the interests of the colonies, and the advantages that accrued to our trade under his superintendance. As the winter approached, two formidable reports were circulated, the one, that De Grass intended to attack the Island of Jamaica, and the other that his object was solely to convoy a rich fleet of Spanish galleons, which was about to rendezvous at the Havannah. For either of these movements Wager disposed himself with happy skill. Dividing his force into two squadrons, he sent the one half to watch the advance of the enemy, and re-

Digitized by Google

tained himself a force which he deemed sufficient to master the galleons before any succour could reach them. The undertaking was subjected to all the vicissitudes incidental to the element upon which it was formed. In the month of January he set sail from Port Royal, but had the mortification to discover that his intended prizes would lie safe in the harbour of Porto Bello until May. Returning, therefore, to his station, with a hope of lulling them into a belief that he was deterred from any enterprise by the consciousness of inferior strength, he remained inactive until the middle of May, when he weighed anchor again, and had the misfortune to encounter a severe storm, in which his squadron, which consisted of only three sail of the line, and a fire-ship, was much damaged. The predicament in which he now lay was extreme; if he returned to port he ran the risk of missing his object, and if he remained at sea, his shattered state, and the superior numbers of the enemy, rendered his success highly problematical. With the usual intrepidity of the profession, he determined upon the latter course, and carried himself through every obstacle with exemplary spirit.

The enemy, to the number of seventeen sail, were discovered at daybreak on the 28th of May, off Carthagena, and seemed indifferent to any movement which the small body of English could offer. They bore on boldly in their course, as if the superiority of their means must deter an attack; but, finding themselves pursued, endeavoured to weather the island of Baru, and failing in the effort, formed in line, and evinced a determination to end all anxiety, by a decisive engagement. Wager got alongside of their centre and largest ship about sunset, and immediately began the fight. But, notwithstanding the resolution of this act, his companions, the Kingston and Portland, failed in their duty, and both kept to windward, out of their stations, though repeatedly hailed by the commodore, and challenged by his boats. Undepressed by this cowardice, Wager's ship, the Expedition, continued hotly engaged with the Spanish Admiral for an hour and a half, when the latter blew up by accident, and only eleven of the crew were saved from the wreck. About ten o'clock he came up with the rear-admiral, and firing upon him at hazard in the dark, had the fortune to lodge a broadside so effectually in his stern, that he was disabled from making any

Digitized by Google

farther way. Soon after this second conquest, the Kingston and Portland came up, and after a short fight the enemy surrendered, and the prizes, which proved highly valuable, were safely captured.

This affair had no sooner been completed, than Wager received despatches from England, which acquainted him with his promotion to the flag of Rear-admiral of the Blue squadron. On the 2d of December, 1708, he rose to be Rear-admiral of the White, and continuing in the command of the West Indian station until the ensuing autumn, let slip no opportunity of maintaining the superiority of his country upon the seas over which he commanded.

Returned to England, he enjoyed the satisfaction of receiving the most flattering proofs of public approbation. The Queen treated him with great respect; and her ministry made him a knight, and Rear-admiral of the Red; addresses and votes of thanks poured in upon him from all quarters, and he stood established in a very high character for judgment, vigilance, and integrity. An interval of relaxation now occurred, and Wager led a private life until George the I. ascended the throne, when he was nominated to command in the Mediterranean. There remains, however, nothing more to relate of his career, but a list of honourable appointments, and frequent promotions; for, though frequently called out on duty, he met with no opportunities for striking distinction. On the 16th of June, 1716, he was advanced to the flag of Vice-admiral of the Blue; on the 1st of February, 1717, he became Vice-admiral of the White; and on the 15th of March, 1718, rose to be Vice-admiral of the Red. From the year 1722 to 1730 he was vested with several important commissions, and upheld his popularity by steady abilities. His last voyage was made in 1731, when a French invasion was menaced, and a large flotilla was reported to be collecting at Calais and Dunkirk. The fears of the nation, however, were proved to have been vainly excited, and Wager, who was gazetted Admiral of the Blue, in the month of July, repaired to Cadiz, with twenty ships of the line, for the purpose of seeing a treaty ratified, which was brought about between the Emperor of Germany and the King of Spain, through the mediation of his Britannic Majesty.

Age now in some degree disinclined Wager from active em-

Digitized by Google

ployment, but he filled several civil offices with a purity and talent which greatly augmented the reputation of his professional character. In 1733 he was called upon to act as first commissioner for executing the duties of Lord High Admiral, in which place he continued until March, 1742, when increasing infirmities induced him to accept of the less fatiguing situation of Treasurer of the Navy. For the probable ease of this transition, however, he was not spared, his death having occurred ten months after, as has been already specified on his epitaph.

SIR PETER WARREN, K. B.

The monument to the memory of Sir Peter Warren is also placed in the south transept of Westminster Abbey. It is a costly and imposing structure, executed by Roubiliac, with all the nicety for which that artist has been commended, and all the figurative mystery for which the sculpture of the country down to the present day has almost invariably been reproved. The back-ground is gracefully occupied by a falling flag, in front of which is a figure of Neptune placing a half-body bust of the Admiral upon a pedestal. An able personification of Navigation regarding the bust with a fine expression fills the other extremity. This is the inscription:—

Sacred to the memory of
Sir Peter Warren,
Knight of the Bath, and Vice-Admiral of the Red
Squadron of the British Fleet, and
Member of Parliament
For the City and Liberty of Westminster.
He derived his descent from an ancient
family of Ireland:
His fame and honours from his virtues and abilities.
How eminently those were displayed,

Digitized by Google

With what vigilance and spirit they were exerted
In the various services wherein he had the honour to command,
And the happiness to conquer,
Will be more properly recorded in the annals of
GREAT BRITAIN.
On this tablet, Affection with Truth must say,
That deservedly esteemed in private life,
And universally renowned for his public conduct,
The judicious and gallant officer
Possessed all the amiable qualities of the friend,
The gentleman and the Christian:
But the ALMIGHTY,
Whom alone he feared, and whose gracious protection he had often experienced,
Was pleased to remove him from a place of honour
To an eternity of happiness,
On the 29th day of July, 1752,
In the 46th year of his age.
Susannah, his afflicted wife, caused
This Monument to be erected.

The place of Sir Peter Warren's birth is not known: but the date of it, if the representation of his epitaph be true, must have been the year 1703. It is generally reported that he entered the navy at an early age, and yet no account has been preserved of his services, until the year 1727, when he was a Post Captain on board the Grafton, which was one of the ships under Sir Charles Wager in the Mediterranean. Upon this station he could have spent no great time, for he is soon after found sailing to the West Indies, in the Soleby frigate, for the purpose of executing the conditions of a peace with Spain. From this voyage he returned in 1729, and was removed into the Leopard, of 50 guns, with which he joined Sir Charles Wager, at Spithead, and there remained for two years in consequence of the unsettled state of our foreign relations.

In 1742, he was again in the Mediterranean, but on board a new ship, the Launcestor, of 40 guns, in which he captured the Peregrina, an 18 gun privateer, off Port Mahon. His next ship was the Superb, of 60 guns, and his next station the West

Digitized by Google

Indies, where he became commodore of a small squadron at Antigua, and distinguished himself by the alacrity of his exertions, and the success of his movements; for, between the 12th of February and the 24th of June, 1744, he captured no less than four-and-twenty prizes.

In 1745 an attack was made on Louisbourg, the capital of Cape Breton, in North America, and Commodore Warren was sent from the Leeward Islands to superintend the naval operations connected with the siege. Arriving at Canso, in Nova Scotia, with four ships of 40 guns each, on the 25th of April, he found the troops prepared for service, and re-embarking on the 29th, came to an anchor in Gabarus Bay, which is only a mile below Louisburg, on the 30th. The opposition offered to a descent was feeble in the extreme; and while the city was formally invested by military, under General Pepperel, Commodore Warren disposed the fleet with vigilance and fortune. Receiving a reinforcement of three ships of the line, he seized upon two French frigates and a snow on the 20th of May. The following morning he sailed in pursuit of a large ship, which was reported to be hovering off the station, came up with her during the course of the day, and after a short but earnest contest, made her a capture. She proved to be the Vigilante, a new French man-of-war, mounting 64 guns, carrying 560 men, and commanded by the Marquis de Fort Maison. Her destination was the relief of Louisburg, for which she was heavily laden with stores, cannon, and gunpowder, besides the proper equipments for a seventy gun ship, which was on the stocks at Canada. While this advantage was acquired in one direction, a French Brigantine, charged with brandy and provisions, made her appearance nearer shore, and was also taken with ease.

The beneficial consequences of these enterprises soon became evident. The French saw themselves bereaved of all succour, and the garrison was reduced to an extremity. On the 14th of June, the preparations for a general assault by land and sea were completed, but at four o'clock on the following morning a flag of truce came from the city, and tenders of capitulation were submitted to the besiegers. The messenger was ordered to return for an answer on the following day, when the commanders thought proper to take possession of the place, upon the condition of trans-

Digitized by Google

porting the French free of expense to Rochefort, and permitting them to keep their effects. The French flag was accordingly lowered, and the British colours hoisted in its place on the morning of the 17th instant, and in the afternoon of the same day, Warren entered the harbour with considerable state. Thus, after a siege of forty-seven days, the Island of Cape Breton was subjected to the crown of England, an essential victory, for which Warren was made Rear-admiral of the Blue squadron.

Returning to England, he enjoyed an interval of relaxation, but was nevertheless promoted to be Rear-admiral of the White during the ensuing year. Early in 1747 two French squadrons, of great force, were reported to be in a state of equipment in Brest harbour, and Warren was appointed second in command of a fleet under Admiral Anson, which was commissioned to counteract their movements. The armament, with which Anson now came in contact, amounted to thirty-eight sail, led by Monsieur de Jonquiere, and was discovered off the coast of France the 3d of May. As soon as the British Admiral recognised the enemy, he hung out signals for a line of battle, which Warren with great judgment, but most dangerous boldness, affected not to observe, but, on the contrary, gave notice of a general chase, for which he set his top-gallant sails with instant ardour. For this daring act of presumption, which the laws of the service punished with certain death, he justified himself at the moment, by observing to his captain,* that if he lost time in following the orders of his superior, the French must inevitably escape, and he was resolved

* This Captain was Temple West, who afterwards became an admiral, and usurped a conspicuous portion of public regard, by the disinterestedness of his conduct, when the unfortunate Byng was tried and executed. Upon that occasion he was sent to England under arrest in the same ship with the admiral, but was released from confinement, and made a principal witness on the Court Martial. In this capacity his conduct proved so acceptable to the ministry, that he was instantly promoted in his flag, and nominated a Lord of the Admiralty. But he had too much honesty to avail himself of such inviduous circumstances. He saw that Byng was sacrificed to a faction, and he resolved not to act under them. Accordingly, the first command to which he was appointed was no sooner gazetted, than he addressed a public letter to the Admiralty, and spiritedly declared that he would accept of no responsibility while the principles upon which Byng had been executed, were inculcated by Government. He has received the tribute of a monu-

Digitized by Google

to satisfy his conscience. Fortunately for the result, Anson no sooner observed these proceedings, than he fell in with Warren's views, and, abandoning his first intention, made signs for a general chase. The British sailed on with eagerness, and the battle terminated highly to their glory. But the business of this sketch is confined to the conduct of Rear-admiral Warren. He carried his flag on board the Devonshire, of 60 guns, and fell close upon the Serieux, which carried the French Admiral. Having silenced this opponent, he hastened to attack the Invincible, bearing the flag of the Chevalier de St. George, who was second in command; and after a short encounter dismasted her also. The vigour of these assaults, being ably seconded by his companions, the victory was speedily completed, and six two deckers, and four frigates, were captured. It was for the gallantry displayed upon this me-

ment in the north aisle of Westminster Abbey, from which the following expressive inscription is copied:—

"Sacred to the memory of Temple West, Esq. who dedicated himself, from his earliest youth, to the naval service of his country, and rose with merit and reputation to the rank of Vice-admiral of the White. Sagacious, active, industrious, a skilful seaman, cool, intrepid, and resolute, he proved himself a gallant officer. In the signal victory obtained over the French, May 3, 1747, he was Captain of the ship which carried Sir Peter Warren, and acquired peculiar honour even on that day of general glory. In the less successful engagement near Minorca, May 20, 1756, wherein, as Rear-admiral, he commanded the second division, his distinguished courage and animated example were admired by the whole British squadron; confessed by that of France, and, amidst the national discontent which followed, rewarded, as they deserved, by the warmest applauses of his country, and the just approbation of his Sovereign. On the 17th of November following, he was appointed one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. He adorned his station by a modesty which concealed from him his own merit, and a candour which disposed him to reward that of others. With these talents he possessed the milder graces of domestic life; to the frank and generous spirit of an officer, he added the ease and politeness of a gentleman: and with the moral and social virtues of a good man, he exercised the duties of a Christian. A life so honourable to himself, so dear to his friends, so useful to his country, was ended at the age of forty-three, A.D. 1757. To preserve to posterity his fame and his example, this monument was erected by the daughter of the brave unfortunate Balchen, the wife of Temple West, A.D. 1761."

Digitized by Google

morable occasion, that Warren was honoured with the Order of the Bath.

Persevering in active service, Admiral Warren was stationed with a squadron off Cape Finisterre in the month of July following, where he fell in with two French ships of war, convoying four valuable merchantmen. Giving instant pursuit, the whole body ran into a bay on the Island of Sisorgo, where one of the men-of-war was fired in despair by her crew, and the merchantmen were got off with safety, and conducted to Portsmouth. On the following day he received notice from a privateer that a numerous fleet of coasters had taken refuge in Sediere Bay, near Cape Ortegal, and forthwith detached a sloop and dogger, who returned to him two days after with five prizes, and a Spanish frigate, and the more agreeable assurance, that the guns lay spiked, and the batteries overturned at Sediere, and that no less than four-and-twenty vessels had been destroyed in the bay.

After driving a French frigate, of 36 guns on shore, near Cape Pinas, on the 8th of July he returned to England, and was made Vice-admiral of the White squadron. On the 2d of September he set sail on another cruise, but fell so ill that he was obliged to resign his command, and retire to his seat at Westbury, in Hampshire. Nor was he destined to render any farther services to his country; for peace being proclaimed during the following year, the fleet was dismantled, and he was left without opportunity for distinction. He carried with him, however, into private life a character the most estimable, and a popularity the most enthusiastic. It was at the general election, in 1747, he became representative of Westminster, and on the 12th of May, 1748, was nominated Vice-admiral of the Red. Another instance of the confidence with which he was regarded occurred in 1752, when the Alderman's gown for the Ward of Billingsgate became vacant, and he was unanimously presented with the freedom of the city of London, for the express purpose of being elected into the Court of Aldermen. This unexpected honour he endeavoured to decline, conceiving the duties it would impose upon him incompatible with his professional avocations. The livery of the ward however persisted in their ideas, and he was unanimously returned for the office, but paid a fine of 500*l.* rather than undertake it. This amicable

Digitized by Google

altercation concluded, he paid a visit to Ireland, and was there seized with a fever, which suddenly closed his career at the date specified on his monument.

ADMIRAL WATSON.

High above the door opening into the north cross aisle* of Westminster Abbey, is a sumptuous monument to the memory of Admiral Charles Watson. The design being wholly figurative is censurable, but the execution is masterly. The Admiral, robed in the Roman toga, is introduced amidst a grove of palm trees. On the one side is a personification of the Goddess, or Genius of Calcutta, prostrate; and on the other a similar emblem of Chandernagore, which is to be distinguished by the chains with which it appears bound. The inscription runs thus:—

To the Memory of Charles Watson,
Vice-Admiral of the White, Commander-in-Chief

* In the adjoining aisle, but more to the east, is another monument, to Admiral Holmes, an officer of whom mention has been repeatedly made in these pages. He is represented as a Roman warrior, resting his hand on a cannon mounted on its carriage. An anchor, flag staff, and other naval emblems diversify the back-ground. It is a striking performance, from the chisel of Wilton, but one in which truth and propriety are sacrificed to effect. The inscription is thus engraved:—

To the Memory of
Charles Holmes, Esq.
Rear-admiral of the White,
Commander-in-Chief of his Majesty's Fleet, stationed at Jamaica,
He died the 21st of November, 1761,
Aged 50
Erected by his grateful Nieces,
Mary Stanwix, and Lucretia Sowle.

Digitized by Google

of his Majesty's Naval Forces in the East Indies,
Who died at Calcutta, on the 16th of August, 1757,
In the 44th year of his age.
The East India Company,
As a grateful testimony of the signal advantages which
They obtained by his valour and conduct,
Caused this monument to be erected.

There are also three shields, conspicuously placed, with the following dates:—

Gereah taken February 23, 1756.	Chandernagore taken March 23, 1757.	Calcutta freed January 2, 1757.

The earliest account preserved of Admiral Watson, in the annals of the navy, is an appointment to be captain of the Garland frigate, in February, 1738. He retained the command of this vessel until the year 1741, when, being stationed in the Mediterranean, he was removed into the Plymouth, of 60 guns. His next ship was the Dragon, on board of which he attracted distinction for his gallantry in the subsequent affair off Toulon. Returning to England, he soon after obtained the Princess Louisa, also of 60 guns, which was attached to the two squadrons under Anson and Hawke, that encountered Messieurs De Jonquiere and De L'Entendier in 1747, occasions on which Watson greatly improved his reputation for bravery and discrimination.

A short interval of peace supervened, but the government was so well pleased with Watson's conduct, that during the course of the same year he was made Rear-admiral of the Blue, and Commander-in-chief of the North American station, with the local rank of Governor of Newfoundland. From these occupations he was withdrawn, in 1754, to be transferred to that scene of his greatest honours, the East Indies, over which, after a very brief, but most brilliant period of service, he ranked as one of the most signal founders of the British ascendancy. Arrived at Bombay in November, 1755, he promptly undertook to overthrow the power of the noted pirate Angria, by reducing the fortress of

Digitized by Google

Geriah, which was the capital of his dominions. The port and harbour having been safely sounded by a ship belonging to the Company, Watson collected his squadron, and after receiving on board a detachment of troops, headed by Colonel Clive, set sail for Geriah, on the 7th of February. As he approached the place a Mahratta fleet, with a land force of 8000 men, put themselves under his authority, in the character of allies. Thus ably succoured, he reached his destination in safety, and immediately sent a flag to summon the fortress. By this time it was discovered that Angria had quitted the fort, but his wife and family still remained in it, and his brother-in-law, who commanded in his stead, boldly declared that he would fight to the last extremity.

The overtures of amity having been thus peremptorily rejected, formidable arrangements were made for the attack. The English passed into the harbour in battle array, about noon, on the 12th instant, and were saluted as they entered with a heavy cannonade from the batteries on the land and armed vessels on the water. This first assault was hotly returned, and the contest raged on until four in the afternoon, when a shell descended upon one of the largest vessels among the Indian fleet: she took fire, the flames circulated with fierce rapidity, and after an interval, the whole armament was consumed. Still the enemy were undaunted, and the fight was maintained until six in the evening, when another shell was thrown into the fort, and that took fire also. The bombardment then ceased on both sides, and the English indulged in anticipations of a surrender.

Aware that the Mahratta allies had been engaged in hostilities against Angria before the British interfered, and suspecting that if forced to cede the place, the enemy might prefer a native to a foreign victor, Watson advised Colonel Clive to avail himself of this temporary suspension of arms, and land his forces to watch the issue of the siege. But the followers of Angria were even yet indisposed to yield: they reduced the conflagration in the fort, and recommenced the cannonade with hearty spirit. The superiority of the British, however, was by this time evident, and the fate of the besieged became inevitable. Watson had warped his ships close to the walls, and his guns soon broke in a breach. This fresh advantage acquired, he dispatched a flag of truce to

Digitized by Google

the fort, and invited the governor to surrender: yet once again was the offer unequivocally refused.

The intervention of night occasioned a pause in the proceedings; but on the following morning, the English resumed the attack with vigour. The enemy remained resolute, until about one o'clock, when their principal magazine blew up, and the gradual enervation of their fire showed that their spirits were broken. At length a white flag was hoisted at about four o'clock, and a parley ensued. Even in this extremity the besieged disdained the terms proposed for their acceptance, and the battle continued until past five o'clock, when the brother of Angria finally struck his flag, and submitted at discretion.

The power of Angria was now upset, and his mother, wife, and children, became prisoners to the company. Two hundred pieces of cannon, six brass mortars, a large stock of ammunition, and specie, and effects, to the value of 13,000*l.*, fell into the hands of the conquerors. Watson, garrisoning the fort with six hundred men, stationed four armed vessels to protect it by sea, and then returned with ease and safety to Bombay.

After refitting his vessels, he set sail for Madras, and there received intelligence of the capture of Calcutta, and the tragedy of the Black Hole, by the Nabob Rajah Dowla. No time was now to be lost;—Clive, Watson, and the government of the district hastily concerted measures, and on the 5th of October the army was embarked, and the fleet set sail for Calcutta. On the 5th of December, the squadron cast anchor in Balasore Road, on the coast of Bengal; and the 28th Watson proceeded up the river with the Kent, Tiger, Salisbury, and the Bridgewater ships of war, and the Kingfisher sloop. By the next day Clive had landed his men, invested the fortress of Budjio, and after an hour's contest, reduced it to submission. The ships now proceeded in their course up the river, and as fast as they advanced the enemy retired from their possessions along the shore, until Watson came to an anchor before Calcutta, on the 2d of January, 1757.

A sharp cannonade was instantly opened, but so superior was the conduct of the British, that after a struggle of two hours, the batteries were completely silenced, the enemy flew from their guns, and the various defences were successively

Digitized by Google

seized upon with unexpected ease and despatch. In this happy movement, which restored the British to their power on the banks of the Ganges, only nine seamen and three soldiers were killed, while the loss amongst the enemy was truly considerable. Ninety-one pieces of cannon, four mortars, and an abundant supply of ammunition, stores, and provisions, were seized upon, and it only remained to urge the tide of success into other quarters.

Accordingly, a fresh enterprise was determined on without delay, and the city of Hughly, situated higher up on the river, was besieged. At this place lay the Rajah's great storehouses of salt, the granaries for the support of his army, and the various depots from which alone he derived his means of carrying on the war. The importance of such a place was great, and no mean opposition to the besiegers was anticipated. Yet, fortunately for their cause, the attack was crowned with a success so speedy, that no detail of its progress can be desirable.

Endeavours were now made to bring the Rajah to a treaty, but he rejected every overture, whether from Clive or Watson, with passionate energy, and vowed to extirpate the British from the East. With these declarations he mustered an army amounting to 15,000 foot, and 20,000 horse, and on the 2d of February, 1757, established himself in a position distant only a mile from Calcutta. In the engagement which ensued, Watson had no share, though he contributed to the result by detaching from the fleet a body of sailors 600 strong. The Nabob was forced to retreat with great loss and precipitation; and ere long, overcome by the peremptory expostulations of the vice-admiral, he entered into a correspondence for peace, which was ratified without farther bloodshed.

But, though tranquillity was thus established in one way, the condition of our affairs in the very same quarter was still deemed precarious. Our ancient rivals, the French, held a strong position in the neighbourhood, and it was ascertained, upon evidence strongly presumptive, that they sought to tamper with the fidelity of our new ally, the Nabob. A determination to eject the French from the country was accordingly formed, and the reduction of their chief settlement at Chandernagore was entrusted to Vice-admiral Watson and Colonel Clive. The

Digitized by Google

army, amounting to 2,000 men, marched to the spot overland, and the naval squadron, consisting of three ships of war, in which Mr. Pocock,* of the Kent, held the second rank, reached

* This officer subsequently became more distinguished as Admiral Sir George Pocock, K.B., who has a monument in the chapel of St. John the Evangelist, in Westminster Abbey. The design is not remarkable for fertility of mind, nor the execution for vigour of hand. A tasteless personification of Britannia grasps a thunderbolt in one hand, and extends the other over a medallion of the Admiral. The inscription mainly recapitulates the history of Pocock's life, and may, therefore, give place to a more particular notice, which here follows.

George, the son of the Reverend Thomas Pocock, Chaplain to Greenwich Hospital, was born on the 6th of March, 1706, and entered the navy as a midshipman, at the early age of twelve. For one of his great grandfathers he had Sir Thomas Turner, who was a Baron of the Exchequer during the reign of Charles the II., and for an uncle Sir George Byng, afterwards Lord Viscount Torrington. By this latter officer was young Pocock patronised, when, in 1718, he undertook his famous expedition into the Mediterranean for the purpose of enforcing, on the part of Spain, those enactments of the Quadruple Alliance, upon which the Peace of Utretcht was founded. A victory over the Spanish fleet having restored the balance of power in Europe, a tranquil interval of twenty years supervened, during which Pocock advanced himself in his profession with easy credit. He became first lieutenant of the Namur, in 1732, was gazetted a post-captain, in 1738, and was soon after appointed to the Aldborough, in which he was attached to the Mediterranean squadron. There he continued to serve, capturing a number of privateers, until 1741, when he returned home, and during the next year received the Woolwich, from which, in 1744, he passed into the Sutherland, and escorted some of the Company's ships to the East. Being next ordered to the West Indies, he succeeded Commodore Legge in the chief command of the Barbadoes station, on the 19th of September, 1747, and greatly distinguished himself by the judgment with which he disposed his cruisers, and the ability with which upwards of forty French vessels were thus captured.

Thrown out of active duty by the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, he remained in a private capacity until the close of the year 1751, when he was sent to co-operate with Admiral Watson in the East. There he was raised to the flag of Rear-admiral of the White, in 1755, and to that of Rear-admiral of the Blue during the course of the following year. After aiding Watson in the several enterprises related above, he succeeded that officer in the chief command of the station, and was declared Rear-admiral of the Red on the 31st of January, 1758. On the 29th of April, having then under his orders seven ships of war, a frigate, and a store-ship, he came up with an equal French force, under the Count D'Aché, and commenced an action off Fort St. David. His own conduct on this occasion was perfectly correct and brave: he bore down in person on the opposing Admiral with

Digitized by Google

the same place on the 18th of March. Upon their first approach, they found their entrance blocked up by a boom, and several

heavy resolution, but was not, for some time, seconded, either from cowardice or incapacity, by his rear, and thus lost the chance of victory. For when the ships astern did join in action, his van was disabled from pursuit, and he was obliged to haul close on the wind, and content himself with a hope of resuming the engagement in the morning. That hope, however, he had not at all the means of realising. The French escaped during the night, and when day broke were no where to be seen or to be traced.

After meeting Aché twice in July, and vainly attempting encounters on both occasions, his ambition was in some degree gratified on the 5th of August. On that day he found the French squadron sailing compactly off Negapatam, and after considerable manœuvring, brought on a close and general engagement. For awhile the enemy resisted with steady gallantry, but their line was soon broken, and a victorious chace then began. No captures were made: the French, however, suffered numerously in killed and wounded, and were forced to fly to the Mauritius.

Of the events which happened under Pocock's command in 1759, one only is memorable, and that took place on the 9th of September, when, after a hot fight of three hours, he again put Aché to flight, off Pondicherry. This action was distinguished for its severity: the French had eleven sail of the line, and a frigate; the British were without any addition to their force, and though victors, suffered a loss of 500 in killed and wounded.

Returning to England in 1761, Pocock received the Order of the Garter, was publicly thanked for his services by Parliament, and the East India Company, and made Admiral of the Blue. In 1762 he hoisted his flag on board the Namur, and sailing to the West Indies, undertook the conduct of a mighty expedition against Cuba. That the expectations of the country were disappointed on this occasion, is a matter of historical record; but the blame of failure attached neither to the army or navy employed on the enterprise, but to the inefficacy of the ministry who directed the affair. Havannah, the capital of the island, was taken, after a series of masterly contentions, in which the fleet, under Pocock and Keppel, and the army, under the Earl of Albemarle, behaved with much gallantry. A booty, valued at three millions sterling, rewarded their labours; but no greater efforts were deemed prudent, and the expedition broke up without farther honours.

Revisiting London, upon the ratification of peace, in 1763, Pocock was once more honoured by a vote of thanks from the Parliament—a compliment which was also paid him by the Corporation of London, and several other public bodies. But at the moment he stood most elevated in public estimation, he withdrew altogether from the public service, by throwing up his rank, in 1766, provoked, as was supposed, by a preference given to Sir Charles Saunders, in the post of First Lord of the Admiralty. From this period he lived in the endearments of seclusion, where he was warmly re-

Digitized by Google

vessels, which were sunk in the channel. These obstructions, however, being speedily overcome, the men of war drew up in line before the fort, on the 24th, and opened a furious cannonade from the water, while Clive began a resolute attack on land. The fire was maintained with systematic heat for three hours, when a white flag was unexpectedly hoisted, and this, the last hold of France on the Peninsula of India, submitted to the arms of Great Britain.

A French army, however, was yet on foot in the country, and it soon became apparent that the Nabob, though he paid his bounden tributes to the Company, was but too well inclined to join Monsieur de Bussy, and bring about another rupture with his new allies. This fatal propensity involved one of the most memorable events in the History of Bengal; for the subsequent Battle of Plassey not only led to the final overthrow of the French, but also caused the deposition of the vacillating Nabob. Some account of this great proceeding, and the consequences emanating from it, was rendered by Watson, in an official letter dated, on board the Kent, off Calcutta, July the 16th, 1757; and it is here inserted as the most satisfactory description of the fortune which thus added fresh honours to the arms of our country.

"By Captain Toby, of the Kingfisher sloop, I informed you of the surrender of the town and port of Chandernagore; and in the same letter I took notice of the great reluctance with which the Nabob, Sur Rajah Dowla, showed in complying with the articles of the peace, on which subject many letters passed between us. In most of them he never failed to be very liberal in his promises, but that was all that could be obtained from him. These delays to the final execution of the peace, were in effect the same to the commerce of the kingdom, as much as if none had been concluded. The leading men at the Nabob's Court, knowing his faithless disposition, and perceiving no probability of an established peace in their country, while he continued in

garded as a fond husband, kind father, and gentle friend; until the 3d of April, 1792, when he expired at his house in Curzon-street, May-fair, London. His remains were deposited in a family vault at Twickenham. One son, and a daughter married to Earl Powlet, survived to preserve the example of his virtues, and the reputation of his name."

Digitized by Google

the government, began to murmur, and entered into a confederacy to deprive him of it. Amongst these were Jaffier Ally Cawn, who was one of his principal generals, and held several other considerable appointments. Nevertheless, having been greatly disgusted at the Nabob's repeated ill-conduct, he became very zealous in the confederacy against him, and communicated the design to Mr. Watts, the second in council of this place. By letters of the 25th and 26th of April, the committee was informed of this affair, which was debated with all the attention and circumspection possible. On maturely examining into the behaviour of the Nabob, he appeared so far from complying with the articles of the peace he had solemnly sworn to observe, that he would not permit us to put a garrison into Cossimbuzar, and had given strict orders not to suffer even a pound of powder or ball to pass up the river. These measures, added to the certain accounts we received of his having invited Monsieur de Bussy, the French commanding officer in the province of Golconda, to join him with all the troops he could bring, left us very little reason to believe he had any intention to continue even on peaceable terms with us, any longer than he thought himself unable to engage in a war against us. It was, therefore, judged most advisable to join Jaffier Ally Cawn with our troops, such a step appearing the most effectual for establishing a peace in the country, and settling the English on a good and solid foundation. This being resolved, and the articles hereafter recited being agreed to, our army marched on the 13th of last month, from Chandernagore, towards Cossimbuzar; and, in order that Colonel Clive should have as many Europeans with him as possible, I agreed to garrison Chandernagore, and to send up with him on the expedition, a lieutenant, seven midshipmen, and fifty seamen to serve as gunners. I also ordered a twenty gun ship to anchor above Hughly, and keep a communication open with the Colonel.

"On the 19th of June, Cutwa fort and town, situated on this side of the river, which forms the island of Cossimbuzar, were taken by a party detached for the purpose. There the army remained for two or three days, for the purpose of receiving intelligence from Jaffier Ally Cawn, who it was agreed, by all the confederacy, should succeed to the Nabobship, as

Digitized by Google

he was a man of family, held in great esteem by all ranks of people. On the 22d the army crossed the river, and the next day had a decisive battle with Sur Rajah Dowla, over whom our troops obtained a complete victory, put his army to rout, and took possession of his camp, with upwards of fifty pieces of cannon, and all his baggage. He was joined by fifty French soldiers, who worked his artillery; and by the most authentic accounts, his army consisted of twenty thousand fighting men, exclusive of those under Jaffier Ally Cawn, and Roy Dowlub, who did not act against us. The number killed in the enemy's camp were few, as they only stood a cannonading. We had about nineteen Europeans killed and wounded, and thirty Seapoys.

" Sur Rajah Dowla, after this defeat, withdrew privately, as did Montoll, his prime minister, and Monick Chaund, one of his generals.

" On the 26th of June, Jaffier Ally Cawn entered the city of Muxadavad; and by a letter from the Colonel, of the 30th, we were informed of his having placed Jaffier Ally Cawn in the ancient seat of the Nabobs of this province, and that the usual homage had been paid him by all ranks of people, as Subah of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa.

" On the 30th, late at night, a letter came from the Colonel, advising that Sur Rajah Dowla was taken prisoner: and on the 4th instant, he acquainted the committee of the Nabob having been put privately to death by Jaffier Ally Cawn's son, and his party. The specie in the treasury, upon examination, was found very short of expectation. However, the Colonel has already sent down one-third of the sum stipulated in agreement, and it is said as much more will soon follow as will make up half. The other half is to be paid in three years, at three annual and equal payments.

" Mr. Law, who was the French chief at Cossimbuzar, and who had collected near two hundred European troops, was coming to the assistance of the late Nabob, and was within a few hours' march of him, when he was taken prisoner, which Mr. Law hearing of, advanced no farther. Soon after the Colonel detached a party in search of him, under the command of Captain Coote, of Colonel Adlercron's regiment, consisting of two hun-

Digitized by Google

dred Europeans, and five Seapoys, joined by two thousand of Jaffier Ally Cawn's horse. We cannot, however, yet expect to hear any thing of the conduct of this detachment, as it is uncertain how far Captain Coote may be led after the French party."

To this letter was subjoined a translation of the compact by which Jaffier Ally Cawn bound himself to an alliance with the Company. It seems sufficiently curious to merit insertion.

"In the presence of God and his Prophet, I swear to abide by the terms of this agreement while I have life,

MEER
MAHMUD JAFFIER
CAWN BAHABAR,
THE SLAVE OF
ALLUM GEER
MOGUL.

"The agreement and treaty with Nabob Sur Rajah Dowla I agree to, and admit of.

"The enemies of the English are my enemies, whether Europeans or others.

"Whatever goods and factories belong to the French in the Provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa, shall be delivered to the English, and the French shall never more be permitted to have factories or settlements in these provinces.

"To indemnify the Company for their losses, through the capture of Calcutta, and the charges they have been at to repossess their factories, I will give one crore* of rupees.

"To indemnify the English inhabitants who suffered through the capture of Calcutta, I will give fifty lacks of rupees.

"To indemnify the losses suffered by Jentoors, Moormen, &c. I will give twenty lacks of rupees.

"To the inhabitants, the Armenian Peons of Calcutta, who suffered through the capture, I will give seven lacks of rupees.

* One crore of rupees is an hundred lacks, and one lack is about 12,500*l.*

Digitized by Google

"The division of these donations I leave to the Admiral, the Colonel, and the Committee.

"The lands within the Moratta ditch, all around Calcutta, which are now possessed by other Zemindars, and six hundred yards all around, without the ditch, I will give entirely to the Company.

"The Zemindary of the lands to the southward of Calcutta, as low as Culpee, shall be in the hands of the English Company, under their government and orders, and the customary rents of every district within that tract, shall be paid by the English into the King's Treasury.

"Whenever I send for the assistance of the English troops, their pay and charges shall be disbursed by me.

"From Hughly downwards I will build no new forts near the river.

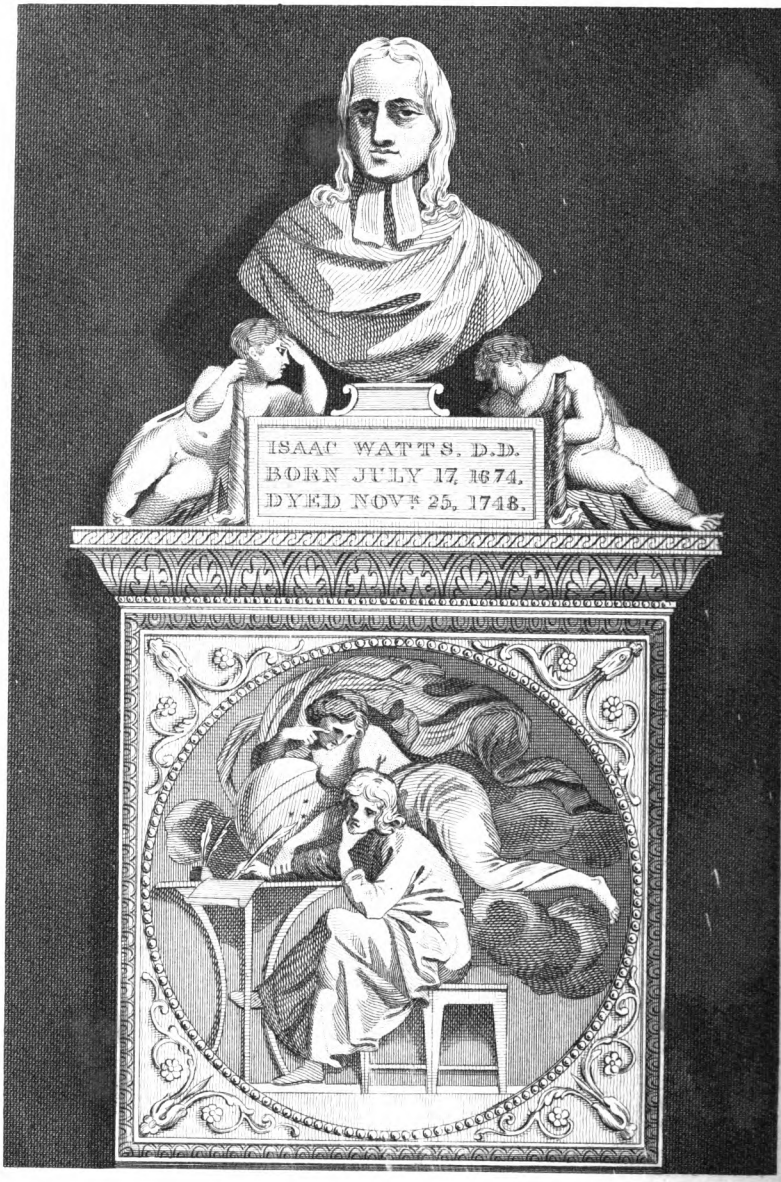
"As soon as I shall be established Subah of the three provinces I will immediately perform the preceding articles.

Dated the 15th of the Moon Ramazan,
in the 4th year of the present reign."

Such were the signal exertions of Admiral Watson during the short period of two years, at the close of which his life was prematurely terminated. The fatigue of constant service, and the oppression of a climate to him constitutionally unwholesome, excited a fever, of which he rapidly died at Calcutta, on the day specified on his monument. His funeral, which was public, was solemnized with every feeling of sincere mourning. The inhabitants honoured his memory with a handsome monument at Calcutta, and at home the King distinguished his name by elevating his son to a baronetcy.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google



London

Published by

as the Act directs

1827

Digitized by Google

ISAAC WATTS.

Dr. WATTS has been honoured with a small tabular monument of white marble, in the south aisle of Westminster Abbey. It is divided into two parts by a fascia, over which appears a bust, supported by cherubs, and underneath, in alto relievo, a figure of the Doctor, seated in the act of composition, with a descending angel by his side, who opens to him the mysteries of the globe. The inscription is confined to the dates of his birth and death.

Of Isaac Watts, who has been pronounced by Dr. Johnson—perhaps somewhat hastily—'the first of the dissenters who courted attention by the graces of language,' there is but a meagre account to be given. In his case, that dearth of adventure and varied interest, which proverbially occurs in the biography of literary men, was encreased by a sickly constitution, and a life of bodily infirmities. The delivery of a sermon, the composition of a hymn, the publication of a volume, uniformly instructive, but never dazzling—such were the peaceful occupations of his time, and to his printed works chiefly, therefore, can a reference be made for the records of his modest existence. He was born at Southampton, on the 17th of July, 1674, and was the oldest of nine children. His father is reported to have been originally a shoemaker, but he subsequently kept a boarding-school, and acquired rank by his money, and reputation by his knowledge. The precocious aptitude for learning which young Isaac is said to have displayed, was extraordinary; for it is affirmed that he began to study Latin in his fourth year. Being afterwards sent to the grammar-school of Southampton, he was taught Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, by the Rev. Mr. Pinhorn, and attained so conspi-

Digitized by Google

cuous a proficiency, that it was proposed to raise a subscription for the purpose of entering him at the University. Bred a dissenter, however, and conscientiously attached to his religious creed, he honestly declined the advantages which such a course opened to his views, and repaired in 1690, to an academy established for students of his own persuasion, by the Rev. Mr. Rowe. There he had Hughes the poet, and Horte, afterwards Archbishop of Tuam, for companions, above whom he was remarkable for the vivacity of his wit, which, however, was always as decorous as his conduct was exemplary. In his manners a pattern to his schoolfellows, he also wrote his exercises, particularly in Latin, with a depth of judgment and extent of attainments which reflected great honour on his talents and application.

In his nineteenth year he communicated with the congregation of his tutor, Mr. Rowe, and left his academy after the lapse of another twelvemonth. Two years more were now spent in study and the practice of religion, at his father's residence, after which he became tutor to the son of Sir John Hartopp, at Stoke Newington. This office occupied his cares for five years, from which, however, some intervals of relaxation were snatched and earnestly applied to a thorough comprehension of the Holy Scriptures. His first ministerial appointment was the place of assistant to Dr. Chauncey, and he preached his maiden sermon on the birthday which concluded his four-and-twentieth year. In three years more he succeeded Dr. Chauncey in the charge of the congregation, but was soon after attacked by a fit of illness, which reduced him to such a state of weakness, that Mr. Price was called on to aid him in the discharge of his pastoral duties. As his health became gradually reinvigorated, he resumed his functions, and remained zealously employed at his post until the year 1712, when he was seized with a fever, which lasted so long and violently that his whole frame was enervated for the rest of his life.

It was in this pitiable condition that he attracted the notice of Sir Thomas Abney, who gave him a residence in his house, which he continued to enjoy until the hour of his death. The interval included a term of six-and-thirty years, and constitutes an honourable example of disinterested generosity, and friendly dependance, which it were by no means easy to match. From the date of his admission into this family, the more active business

Digitized by Google

of the ministry was discharged by his assistant, and his time was simply engaged in occasionally preaching to his congregation, and in writing and publishing his works. His salary amounted to 100*l.* a year, one third of which he always expended in acts of charity. To this easy state of being he only added the relief of familiar visits, and private instruction. While any strength remained in him the cure of souls appears to have been his only occupation: religion was always the topic of his conversation, and wherever it gives place to another subject in his writings, moral and philosophical instruction is conveyed in its stead. Thus usefully employed, his strength wore gradually away, until the 2d of November, 1748, when, after being for some time confined to his bed, he expired of mere bodily exhaustion.

Dr. Watts received his degree of D.D. from the Universities of Edinburgh and Aberdeen, during the year 1728. The honour was unsolicited, either by him or his friends, and must be admitted to have been respectably merited. His works, which extend to six volumes, were edited after his death, with a prefatory account of his life, by Dr. Gibbon. Volumes 1, 2, and 3, contain 'Sermons, Religious Discourses, and Essays,' &c. Vol. 4, includes his 'Poems—a metrical version of the Psalms of David; three books of Hymns, and Spiritual Songs; and 'Horæ Lyricæ,' also in three books. This last is the publication which induced Dr. Johnson to enroll him among the British Poets. Vol. 5, comprises 'Logic, or the Right Use of Reason, in the Enquiry after Truth; The Improvement of the Mind; the Knowledge of the Heaven and Earth made easy, or the First Principles of Astronomy and Geography, by the Use of the Globes and Maps; Philosophical Essays; and a Brief Scheme of Ontology.' The 6th volume is solely devoted to subjects of Religious Controversy.

That the man who wrote on all these various subjects must have possessed great powers, considerable industry, and ample knowledge will be easily credited. His controversial writings are now seldom to be met with, but Dr. Johnson commends "their meekness of opposition, and mildness of censure." The only point in them which has provoked recent interest, has been founded upon some apparent vacillation in the Doctor's belief of

Digitized by Google

the Trinity. His 'Logic,' in which he borrowed from Le Clere, has long been admitted into the Universities; and his 'Improvement of the Mind', attained an extraordinary circulation; but neither of them are good books. The greatest praise to be pronounced on them is, that they set on foot a simplification of the science; and so, on the contrary, the greatest fault to be found with them is, that they retain so much of the factitious mystifications of the Aristotelian system. Every man learns from his own thoughts that the operations of the human mind are simple in the extreme. There can be no nonsense, therefore, so utter, as to confuse the brain of a scholar with an immense series of crude distinctions, heavy rules, and abstruse dogmas, which prove little or nothing beyond the unprofitable ingenuity of the writer. Such works ought to be exploded from every rational scheme of education, for the substance of all that can be safely affirmed or usefully inculcated respecting the mind of man, may be satisfactorily explained in a score of pages.

Nevertheless, the fact is not to be concealed, that Watts has been a most popular author: there are few books in the English language which have been oftener printed, or more widely circulated, than his 'Logic,' his 'Improvement of the Mind,' and his 'Hymns.' Indeed, this last volume, as a religious work, may almost be said to rank next to the 'Book of Common Prayer;' and yet, perhaps, there is more spirit in the similar devotional poetry of Wesley. Nor was Watt's reputation as a man and a pastor less favourable than as a writer: gentle and modest, tender to children, and compassionate to the poor. He has been highly complimented for his preaching: his enunciation was grave and distinct, his delivery emphatical and earnest, and his manner, though never enforced by gesticulation, always highly impressive. In fluency of language and fertility of ideas, he was rarely exceeded. Towards the close of his career he used to pronounce his discourses extemporaneously—a fact more creditable to the character of his abilities than could be conjectured, for he appears to have possessed but little originality.

Of his poetry Dr. Johnson has given, upon the whole, a contradictory account, commencing, by awarding him credit for several qualities of the purest order, and concluding with an enumeration of positive faults, which far outbalance the opposite state-

Digitized by Google

ment. The truth is, he had few of the attributes of a poet, and where he does command attention, or excite approbation, his fortune proceeds rather from a familiarity with the classics than any natural powers of his own. He is never rugged, and seldom loose, or forced; but deep feeling, high fancy, and rich invention are qualities with which he was sparingly imbued: his boldest passages are ill sustained loans from sacred writ; nor does he attract by that polished style for which a scholar is usually remarkable. It is curious to observe, that though his private character abounded with piety, benevolence, and charitable acts, his poems evince few of the mercies by which one would suppose such a man to have been animated. On the contrary, his verses are blackened with terrors; heaven with him is in general avenging, and the Deity formidable; imprecation and punishment overload each line; and leave the page barren of those gentle breathings of toleration by which a christian pastor and an enlightened philosopher ought chiefly to delight to move.

The following ode from the first book of the 'Horæ Lyricæ' will enable the reader to judge for himself.

DIVINE JUDGMENTS.

Nor from the dust my sorrows spring,
Nor drop my comforts from the lower skies!
Let all the baneful planets shed
Their mingled curses on my head:
How vain their curses, if th' eternal King
Look thro' the clouds and bless me with his eyes!
Creatures with all their boasted sway,
Are but his slaves, and must obey;
They wait their orders from above,
And execute his word, the vengeance or the love.

'Tis by a warrant from his hand,
The gentler gales are bound to sleep:
The north wind blusters and assumes command
Over the desert and the deep:
Old Boreas, with his freezing powers,
Turns the earth iron, makes the ocean glass,
Arrests the dancing riv'lets as they pass,

Digitized by Google

And chains them moveless to their shores;
The grazing ox lows to the gelid skies,
Walks o'er the marble meads with withering eyes,
Walks o'er the solid lakes, snuffs up the wind, and dies.

Fly to the polar world, my song,
And warm the pilgrims there, a wretched throng,
Seiz'd and bound in rigid chains,
A troop of statues on the Russian plains,
Where life stands frozen in the purple veins.
Atheist, forbear! no more blaspheme:
God has a thousand terrors in his name,
A thousand armies at command,
Waiting the signal of his hand,
And magazines of frost, and magazines of flame.
Dress thee in steel to meet his wrath,
His sharp artillery from the north,
Shall pierce thee to the soul, and shake thy mortal frame.

Sublime on winter's rugged wings
He rides in arms along the sky,
And scatters fate on swains and kings;
The flocks, and herds, and nations die;
While impious lips, profanely bold,
Grow pale; and quivering at his fatal cold,
Give their own blasphemies the lie.

The mischiefs that infest the earth,
When the hot dog-star fires the realms on high,
Drought, and disease, and cruel dearth,
Are but the flashes of a wrathful eye
From the incens'd Divinity.
In vain our parching palates thirst,
For vital food we cry,
And pant for vital breath;
The verdant fields are burnt to dust,
The sun has drunk the channels dry,
And all the air is death.
Ye scourges of our Maker's rod,
'Tis at his dread command, at his imperial nod,
You deal your various plagues abroad.

Digitized by Google

Hail, whirlwinds, hurricanes, and floods,
That all the leafy standards strip,
And bear down with a mighty sweep,
The riches of the fields, and honours of the woods;
Storms, that ravage o'er the deep,
And bury millions in the waves;
Earthquakes, that in midnight-sleep
Turn cities into heaps, and make our beds our graves;
While you dispense your mortal harms,
'Tis the Creator's voice that sounds your loud alarms,
When guilt with louder cries, provokes a God to arms.

Oh, for a message from above,
To bear my spirits up!
Some pledge of my Creator's love
To calm my terrors, and support my hope!
Let waves and thunder mix and roar,
Be thou my God, and the whole world is mine:
While thou art Sovereign, I 'm secure;
I shall be rich till thou art poor;
For all I fear, and all I wish, heaven, earth, and hell, are thine.

BENJAMIN WEST, R.A.

THERE are few subjects of investigation more interesting than the wild contrast at times observable between the powers of the mind, and the circumstances under which the man was reared. The triumph of reason in some instances of this description has been truly magnificent. In fact, genius has been as admirably capricious, and beautifully sportive, as any other mortal thing we know; and no eccentricities can be so delightful as those she has played in the various dispositions and situations of her offspring. Homer,

Digitized by Google

the first and yet most perfect of poets, spotless in simplicity, came forth in the rudest age of darkness and ignorance; Shakspeare, that exquisite paragon of natural learning and unlettered knowledge, was an uneducated wool-comber; and at a still later period the feeling Burns was an untaught plough-boy. Opie was a carpenter; and his friend West, the second President of the Royal Academy, presents as pure an example of the victory which the mind has so often achieved over the obstacles of time and place, and the trammels of prejudice.

Benjamin West was born near Springfield, in Chester County, in the state of Pennsylvania, on the 10th of October, 1738; and was the youngest son out of a family of ten children. His parents were Quakers, who had emigrated from this country when the rigour of that spirit of religious persecution, which has not even as yet subsided amongst us, laid the fortune, liberty, and even life itself of every subject at the mercy of the church government of the day. The family was well descended, and most respectably connected in this country; but in America young West was bred under every circumstance the most adverse to the cultivation of his talents. Civilization at that period had scarcely dawned upon the infant state; in society there were but scanty means of improvement, and in education but the rudiments of knowledge could be obtained; while the deepest principles that guided the life and actions of his father were severely damnatory of the smallest indulgence by which the propensity of his genius could be advanced.

Such was the infancy of West—enviable for its placid uniformity, but destitute of more desirable associations. The first indication of his natural talents is honourably recorded:—in the month of June, 1745, a married sister of his came to spend some time under the paternal roof. She had an infant daughter, which was one day entrusted to the care of young Benjamin, as it lay asleep in its cradle, while the mother and grandmother took a walk to gather some flowers in the garden. Few objects are more captivating than the sleep of infancy. Struck with the babe's unconscious smiles, little West seized a pen and ink on the table, and essayed a rude copy of its state. At this task he was surprised by the return of his mother, who insisted upon knowing what he had been doing. The kiss of fond satisfaction with which

Digitized by Google

she rewarded the surprising attempt, emboldened him to say that, if she pleased, he would make pictures of the flowers she held in her hand. He did so; and from that moment the impulse of genius was active within him; he felt that he could give a form to the image of his mind, and was ever busy with the labour.

Being sent to school, soon after this incident, he was permitted to amuse himself during the hours of relaxation by drawing with a pen and ink. With the next summer came a party of Indians, upon a trafficking visit to Springfield: and the barbarians, pleased with the little sketches of birds and beasts which Benjamin showed them, instructed him how to mix the red and yellow colours, with which they painted themselves. To these his mother added a piece of indigo, and thus was the infant artist put in possession of the three primary colours. No anecdote can be more pleasing than the contemplation of this romantic fact—the wild Indian from the woods taught West to prepare the prismatic colours.

The want of pencils soon became a matter of thoughtful regret—he was told they were small brushes of camel's hair, inserted in quills—but then there were no camels in America; they could not be caught or killed in the forest, and he had never seen them sold. This was a serious dilemma, from which the bushy tail of a large black cat, which was an especial favourite with his father, ere long relieved him. Armed with his mother's scissars, he made, his first pencil from the fur of Tom's tail. But the tail only furnished one pencil, and that was soon worn out; so that he was next obliged to have recourse to the back, which he soon clipped so bare, that his father observed the sad reduction of sleekness and rotundity in the person of his favourite, and became so uneasy with his fears for Tom's decay, that the aspiring artist could not avoid confessing the true cause: forgiveness was the reward of his ingenuousness.

In the course of a year the family sitting-room was hung in a manner very unusual for the severe plainness of a Quaker's residence—with drawings of birds, beasts, and flowers, &c. from the cat's-hair pencil of little Benjamin. About this time a relation from Philadelphia, surprised to see such performances by a boy only eight years old, undertook to remedy the badness of his materials, by sending him a box of paints and pencils from the city. The arrival of this present, with several pieces of

Digitized by Google

canvass, prepared for the easel, along with it, and six engravings, formed an era in the life of the young artist. His every want was now supplied beyond the most sanguine extent of his hopes; oils, paints, ivories, and pencils, were here in plenty; but the engravings, no specimens of which he had ever seen before, filled his mind with the highest satisfaction, and rendered him the most important service. He took his box with him to bed, and held it in uneasy slumbers, until the day broke, when he ascended to the garret, forgot his school-hours, and laboured indefatigably for days together until he finished his first painting on canvass. It is still preserved, and will always be admired. But the greatest benefit thus done the artist, was the full conversion it effected of his mother's prejudices against the pursuit, into an unreserved approbation of his extraordinary success.

A short visit to Philadelphia produced him his first introduction to a brother artist, whose name was Williams. From him he received the works of Fresnoy and Richardson, on painting, besides the advantages of seeing a tolerably good collection of prints and drawings in his possession. Returning home, he obtained acquaintance with the most respectable gentry in the neighbourhood, and from them derived his first earnest of fortune in the profession, by presents of a crown-piece for each of several drawings he made on polished wood with chalk and charcoal. Immediately after these essays he became a portrait painter by invitation. Amongst the number of his new friends and patrons was a Mr. Henry, a very ingenious mechanic, who conceived the death of Socrates would be a favourable subject for the pencil of young Benjamin, and warmly exhorted him to attempt it. But the artist was forced to confess that he knew nothing of the philosopher; the only biography he had read was the scriptural life of Adam, his first father, or of Moses. To remedy this efficiency, Henry lent him a translation of Plutarch; but another difficulty arose; West very properly felt that the slave presenting the poison should be a naked figure; and he did not know how to do justice to it. Without answering the objection at the moment, Henry sent for a young slave of his, and bade him kneel down—then pointing to West he exclaimed "There is your model:" the lesson from nature was convincing, and West finished the design with alacrity. Amongst others to whom it was

Digitized by Google

shown was Dr. Smith, Provost of the College at Philadelphia, who was so much delighted with the performance, that he offered to educate the boy—a generosity which his parents gratefully accepted.

These pursuits continued so prosperously until Benjamin attained his sixteenth year, that at length the more rigid among his father's religious associates took alarm, at the probability there seemed that the young Quaker would become a painter. By them the profession was deemed censurable, because they thought it vain in its purposes, and useless in its ends; and at last it became a conscientious doubt with the old gentleman, whether or not the predilection of his son should be farther encouraged. In order to satisfy his mind, he convoked an assembly of the Society of Friends, and submitted himself to their judgment for the rule of his conduct. Much diversity of argument prevailed upon the subject, and the result was extremely critical, when one John Williams, an able preacher amongst them, who deserves honourable record for the effects of his speech on this interesting occasion, addressed the doubtful meeting. After a general opening, he pointed to old Mr. West and his wife, and forcibly expatiated upon the blameless tenour of their lives. "They have had," he then continued, "ten children, whom they have carefully bred up in the fear of God, and in the Christian religion; and the youth, whose lot in life we are now convened to consider, is Benjamin, their youngest child. It is known to you all, that God is pleased, from time to time, to bestow upon some men extraordinary gifts of mind, and you need not be told, by how wonderful an inspiration, their son has been led to cultivate the art of painting. It is true, that our tenets deny the utility of that art to mankind: but God has bestowed upon the youth a genius for that art; and can we believe that Omniscience bestows His gifts but for great purposes? What God has given, who shall dare to throw away? Let us not estimate Almighty wisdom by our notions; let us not presume to arraign his judgment by our ignorance; but in the evident propensity of the young man be assured, that we see an impulse of the divine hand operating towards a high and beneficent end." These arguments were irresistible, and the sect was moved to liberality; such another scene has never been described in the history of religious opinions, yet such

Digitized by Google

an event is perfectly concordant with the unusual character of West's early years.

Soon after this incident the American war broke out, and West served as a volunteer companion in arms with young Wayne, who subsequently shared so much of the glory which Washington obtained in the liberation of his country. The period of West's soldiership does not appear to have been of any duration; for he is soon found again at Philadelphia, and afterwards at New York, making still farther progress in the art of historical painting, and under the most flattering circumstances. Indeed, so general was the conviction of his genius, that a proposition was voluntarily made by his mercantile friends to defray the expenses of a visit to that land of the arts—unhappy Italy. Arrived at Rome, he was immediately introduced to the most distinguished nobles and literati; and it became a matter of fashion to pay attention to the young Quaker. Large parties were made to accompany him on his visits to the different remains of antiquity, and the most celebrated monuments of later ages; and the greatest eagerness was manifested to learn the effects which the exhibitions would produce upon his ingenuous mind. His comparison of the Apollo to a young Mohawk warrior, was natural, but unacceptable to the classical vanity of the Italians; and the coolness with which he surveyed the paintings of Raphael, in the Vatican, neither answered his own expectations, nor the admiration of his curious companions. West afterwards confessed that he was at first unequal to the task of appreciating such exalted beauties: Michael Angelo pleased him still less, and never shared much of his regard. But the far-famed horses on the Monte Carvallo, ascribed to Phidias, more than realized all his anticipations, and drew forth unqualified admiration and praise. Completing the tour of the Italian cities, he was elected a member of the Academies of Florence, Bologna and Parma; and then proceeded to Paris. There he was more noticed as an object of curiosity than civility; but had the consolation of being assured by his friends, that his observations upon the state of his art in France, as well in every theoretical as every practical view, were eminently just, and and highly beneficial.

In 1763 West came to London: as usual, his reputation had preceded him, and he was no sooner arrived, than he was

Digitized by Google

courted by every rank of society. Such a reception quickly determined him to make England his place of residence. With this view he married a countrywoman from Philadelphia, and, in 1764, opened an exhibition room in Spring Gardens. In 1765, when the incorporation of the artists took place, he was associated a member, and appointed a Director of the Institution.—And here it may not be amiss to say a few words upon the state of historical painting in this country, up to the period of West's arrival among us; for by stating what had been done before him, it will be the more easy to estimate the value of his productions.

It was for a long series of years the weakness of our English monarchs, rather to sorrow idly over the want of talent in their subjects for the beautiful art of painting, than to make any vigorous exertions to correct the deficiency. To be without an artist of distinction was beneath the ornament and dignity of their courts; but by a lamentable perversion of vanity, they preferred inviting foreign painters to share their profusion, than encourage our own countrymen to deserve their liberality. Thus the first advance towards any thing allied with excellence in historical painting was not made until the time of Sir James Thornhill, who died in the reign of Queen Anne. The most creditable works of his pencil were the Dome of St. Paul's, and the Hall of Greenwich Hospital. He was a man of undoubted talent, but his taste was not equal to his conception, and his knowledge was even inferior to his taste. To Sir John Thornhill succeeded Hogarth, a man who would have done honour to any age, and every country. His attempts at what are strictly called historical paintings were certainly valueless, in comparison with his satirical compositions; but perhaps it will be a pardonable excess in the application of the term, if we venture to include some of the more serious of his delineations within the limits of that branch of the art; for it would be difficult to reject from the merit of equal rank with it any efforts which, like his, trace the *story of human passions* or the vicissitudes of mortal character in a style the most serviceable to the cause of virtue, however unworthy the individuals represented may be of any record from the dignity of history itself. One only man intervened between Hogarth and West—Hayman, and he barely deserved the name of an historical painter.

Digitized by Google

West was no sooner settled in a situation suited to the scope of his capacity, than he rapidly produced a series of subjects, which obtained for him throughout Europe the pre-eminent surname of the Reviver of Historical Painting. Of these, one of the most successful was his 'Death of General Wolfe,' the composition of which immediately preceded his elevation to the chair of President of the Royal Society, in the year 1791, upon the demise of Sir Joshua Reynolds. In this situation his exertions answered the most favourable anticipation of success; he enjoyed the respect of the Academy, the approbation of the public, and a patronage which, to secure his talents from the inferior avocation of portrait painting, munificently endowed him with a pension of 1000*l.* a year. Incited by this consideration he devised the plan of the Royal Institution, which was meant to take up the young artist after he left the Academy, and save his early labours from the slavery of mean employment, in order to obtain a maintenance, and constitute a special school of encouragement and reward for historical painting. The design was meritorious in the extreme, and at first honourably supported; but as it did not endure beyond an infancy, any more particular account of its little history may be spared.

To particularise the number of West's paintings, to criticise their character, or expatiate upon their merit, is here unnecessary; they are too well known through the circulation of excellent engravings, to make any lengthened observations upon them, either desirable or interesting. His gallery is still open to an admiring public. It only remains, therefore, to enumerate the different appointments of eminence which he held, and which have not been already alluded to. He was made Historical Painter to his Majesty in 1772, and Surveyor of Royal Pictures, with a salary of 1000*l.* a year, in 1791; and was, moreover, honoured with a rank among the members of the Dillitanti Society, and the Society of Arts.

The latter years of his life flowed on in calm diligence and unabated fame. His most recent works indicated almost an increased vigour in his powers, and more sublime conceptions than those of his early age; and it is not inconsistent with the character of a mind so venerable to suppose, that when he began to devote his mind exclusively to scriptural subjects he was actuated

Digitized by Google

by higher feelings than mere popularity. He had passed the ordinary limits of life; and at a period when almost all of his generation were laid in the grave, or only surviving in exhaustion —he, in his seventieth year, formed the grand design of illustrating the four ages of the Revelations. He designed to devote a picture on the largest scale to the Patriarchal era; one to the Jewish; one to the Christian; and one to the mighty consummation of the Apocalypse. Of these, however, he only lived to execute the two latter. He died at his house, 14, Newman-street, Oxford-street, on Friday, March 10, 1820, aged eighty-one years and five months.

His body lay in state in the Apartments of the Royal Academy until the 15th instant, when it was publicly removed to St. Paul's. The interment was attended by the Academicians and a long train of the nobility and gentry, friends, patrons, and admirers. A plain stone informs the visitor of the spot where he lies in the vaults.

GENERAL WOLFE.

In the northern aisle of Westminster Abbey, and near the chapel of St. Erasmus, stands a commanding monument to the fame of the young hero who forms the subject of this sketch. The design represents the imposing story of his death in the very moment of victory; and the manner in which it has been executed has been repeatedly admired, and highly applauded. Nor is the propriety of the representation to be disputed, provided the inspector be content to overlook the General's nakedness, and the allegorical introduction of a figure of Glory in a tragical scene, which her presence in no respect deepens, while it tends to weaken a veracious moral, by confusing the imaginary with the real. The General is

Digitized by Google

represented in his last agonies, pressing his hand upon the wound in his breast, which caused his death, and supported on the hip of a grenadier, who, with one hand, gently raises his commander's falling arm, and with the other points to the figure of Glory descending from Heaven to crown him with laurel. Upon the pyramid, in relief, a Highland sergeant is introduced standing with folded hands, and thus silently contemplating the wreck of youth and valour;—the pictorial attitude and expression of this figure has been repeatedly noticed with merited applause.—A view of Quebec is also faithfully introduced, in high relief, upon the pedestal, in which the natural difficulties of the place, and the consequent dangers of the service are boldly described. The nearer a work of this kind comes home to the life and actions of its subject, the more it approaches that end for which the expenses of its erection have been incurred; namely, the commemoration of actual merits. These, to be effectively told, must be personally figured; and no allegory or learned emblems can illustrate actual desert half so well as a natural sketch. For these reasons, both the artist who designs, and the statuary who executes a monument like this, deserve a considerable share of praise; they evince solid talent; and, even though the workmanship were reversely as rude as here it is positively masterly, it were still preferable, both for the truth and facts displayed, to the more elaborate intent of many other performances, which are meant to excite the same feelings by more artificial means. The effect, that to be understood, must be studied, upon that ground alone loses half the number of its admirers. The remains of General Wolfe were buried at Greenwich: in the Abbey the inscription is simply confined to the following words:—

"To the memory of James Wolfe, Major-general and Commander-in-chief of the British land forces, on an expedition against Quebec, who, after surmounting by ability and valour all obstacles of art and nature, was slain in the moment of victory, on the 13th of September, 1759:—

The King and Parliament of Great Britain dedicate
This Monument.

It has been truly observed that a man is seldom truly famous

Digitized by Google

until the grave has closed upon his dust, and he is beyond the enjoyment of honour. To this axiom, perhaps, it may also be added, that of those who deserve much from the world, scarcely an individual can safely indicate the particular service or merit for which posterity may be pleased to remember his life. The observation will be found to bear with truth upon many illustrious cases; and involve in its application the warrior, the statesman, the author, and the philosopher. Our Saxon king, Alfred, is more remembered for his romantic adventure as a harper in the Danish camp, than for the wisdom which led him to found and endow the University of Oxford; and his simplicity in forgetting to turn the cakes over the peasant's fire, beside which he found shelter from his enemies, is repeated an hundred fold for one mention that is made of that incomparable institution of his devising, the Trial by Jury. Milton fancied his 'Paradise Regained,' the finest of his works, and Pope spoke in the greatest pride of his 'Essay on Man.' Gallileo is more known for the discovery of the earth's motion round the sun, than the more useful invention of the pendulum, by which we are daily enabled to set our clock in movement and economise time. The list may be easily extended, and even more strongly exemplified; but it shall only be added, that what a long series of actions often fails to produce, a single achievement will effect. This was in some degree the case with General Wolfe, who is celebrated, though somewhat unjustly, more for his death than for his life; and who found the highest honours of victory upon the summit of a rock, where he only looked for the mortification of defeat.

He was the son of Lieutenant-general Edward Wolfe, and was born at Westerham, in Kent, during the year 1726. The profession of his father deciding the course of his life, he entered the army at an early age, and attracted favourable notice on account of his spirited conduct at the battle of Lafelte, before he had reached his twentieth year. The next scene in which he acquired personal distinction, was the battle-field of Minden, after which he served with marked credit at the reduction of Louisburg, by General Pepperell and Sir Peter Warren. But his reputation was by no means public: he passed through the various degrees of the service with a character highly respected by his superiors, and uniformly appreciated by his comrades; still his talents were

Digitized by Google

hardly known beyond the military circles, and his enthusiastic bravery might have lain concealed for years under the shade of native modesty, had not the great Chatham penetrated his nature, and singled him forth for an arduous enterprize which has immortalized his name.

Immediately preceding this appointment, the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle seemed to have fixed the general tranquillity of the world upon the firmest basis; the powers contracted by it were strong in their declarations of sincerity, and the subjects of those powers might well be supposed to have been guaranteed in the new state of things, by the certain benefits it promised to confer upon their respective interests. But political professions are rarely bound by ties of honour; and, perhaps, in proportion as the terms in which they are couched are warm, they ought to be suspected hollow in intention. The stains are many upon the pages of history which confirm the justness of this observation; and if any more particular evidence were required to support it, the circumstances of the peace just mentioned would amply suffice. No compact could have been more solemnly entered upon and cordially cemented than it was, and yet no sooner had the articles of it been adjusted and signed, than its strongest conditions were violated, and the British possessions in North America most flagrantly invaded by our eternal rivals, the French.

Such outrages naturally excited the strongest sense of indignation, and vigorous preparations were accordingly made to resent the injury. Two fleets sailed from Spithead in February, 1759, under the flag of Vice-admiral Saunders, on board of which General Wolfe took his passage to assume the command of a British force destined to reduce Quebec, in North America.* Arrived at his point of destination, one signal and

* There are four officers who fell in America, commemorated by monuments in St. Paul's Cathedral, of whom it is fit that some notice should be taken on account of the gallantry of their deaths, though the adversity of the expeditions which cost them their lives presents no desirable matter for distinct articles. It may suffice, therefore, to speak of them all together in this supplemental manner. The first of the four who perished in point of time was Sir Isaac Brock. His monument, of which an engraving is given in the plate that faces the life of Bowes, page 792 in this volume,

Digitized by Google

concurrent attack upon the French posts was resolved on, and General Amherst, with 12,000 men, after reducing Ticonderago

stands in the western ambulatory of the south transept. It is tabular, and neatly executed by Westmacott. The centre is composed of a rustic memorial, crowned with a sword and helmet, before which the deceased is introduced expiring in the arms of a soldier. An Indian stands by contemplating the event in sorrow. The inscription is brief:—

Erected at the Public Expense
To the Memory of
Major-General
Sir Isaac Brock,
Who gloriously fell
On the 13th of October,
MDCCCXII.
In resisting an attack
on
Queenstown,
In Upper Canada.

The disastrous enterprises undertaken against America at the close of the Peninsular war, occasioned the loss of the three other officers already alluded to. It was then that a British army, amounting nearly to five thousand men, landed in safety at Chesapeak Bay, and General Ross, who held the chief command, determined to proceed against the city of Washington. But at the very onset of the march adversity began to hover over the expedition. The heat of the sun was intense, and the men straggled rawly behind, unable to endure the fatigue of a most dusty road. Arrived near the town of Bladenburg, the enemy unexpectedly presented themselves, and a loose fight took place, in which, though the Americans were routed with facility, the British suffered a heavy loss from the indecision and imprudence of their movements. The sacking of Washington now took place. Ross was at first inclined to receive a ransom for the public works and government property of the place; but while his men halted before the walls, awaiting an answer to a flag of truce, the Americans fired upon the embassy; and even the General had his horse shot under him. This rashness dispelled all idea of accommodation, and the ruin of Washington was speedily effected. The Senate House, the President's palace, the dock-yard, arsenal, and barracks; the naval and military store-houses, a fifty-gun frigate, several gun-brigs and armed schooners, with a variety of gun-boats and armed craft; three rope yards, various offices, some hundreds of cannon, nearly twenty thousand stand of arms, and a vast quantity of shot, shells, and hand-grenades, were fired or destroyed, and altogether reduced either to ashes or fragments. The powder-mills exploded with a terrible crash, and the bed of the river was choked

Digitized by Google

and Crown Point, was to proceed along the river Sorrel, and form a junction with General Wolfe, while General Prideaux and Sir

with wrecks. This work of devastation was awfully completed during the course of one night, and Ross then advanced upon Baltimore. Before he reached this place, however, a body of Americans made a sudden attack upon his lines during an interval of rest, and as he rode to the front, and mingled freely in the skirmish, to ascertain the nature of the opposition, a ball from a rifle penetrated his side, and he fell mortally wounded into the arms of an aid-de-camp. He was only able to name his wife, and recommend her and his family to the nation, when he expired, as a small party were conveying him to the boats of the fleet. Brave and young, his fall was sensibly felt by the army, and was to all appearances a severe misfortune to the expedition. The amiability of his manners had greatly endeared him to the men, and though when he first landed some hesitation and error clouded his military reputation, he seemed to be just on the point of coming into a full consciousness of his own abilities, and doing honour to his station, by a happy union of prudence and activity, when he was snatched away in a moment of insignificant contention. He is commemorated by a tabular monument from the chisel of J. Kendrick, which is elevated above that door in the south transept of St. Paul's, which leads down to the crypt. The design is a poor display of personifications. In the centre is a tomb, upon which Valour deposits an American flag, while Britannia lies recumbent in sorrow, and Fame descends from above with a wreath of laurel.

During the interval which elapsed while intelligence of Ross's death was conveyed to England, and a successor had time to reach the scene of action, the British, who had repaired to New Orleans, were reduced to a miserable extremity. At length, Sir Edward Pakenham became the chief, and General Gibbs the second in command of the army, and affairs assumed a character of vigilance and resolution. Finding a general battle indispensable, Pakenham disposed himself for action with admirable talent, but his plans were meanly executed, or to speak with more truth, they were in every respect completely frustrated. Nevertheless he pronounced the word of attack with calm resolution, and abetted the valour of his men with indefatigable exertion. But all was vain; the British were shamefully provided with efficient Colonels, and their intrepidity seemed absolutely excluded from the possibility of success. Still there was nothing that the gallant, but ill-fated Pakenham could dare which he did not attempt. He scoured the field in every direction, and led several regiments to the charge in person. At length putting himself at the head of the 44th, whose Colonel was no where to be found, he received a wound in the knee from a musket-ball, which killed his horse. Mounting another, however, he hurried on again with the regiment, until a second ball took decided effect, and he fell without life to the ground. The conduct of General Gibbs was also highly meritorious, and his fortune equally adverse—for he, too, was left dead on the field of battle. Such in part was the

Digitized by Google

William Johnson performed a similar service against the forts along the falls of Niagara. These different positions being fortified with remarkable strength, both by nature and art, were extremely difficult of access; but such was the skill and force with which the operations of the British were conducted, that Niagara was captured under every circumstance of gallantry, while Ticonderago and Crown Point were evacuated upon their approach. There now remained nothing but to pursue this tide of unexampled success, and add the capital of Canada to the series of conquests: the marches of our victorious detachments were accordingly directed towards this object.

Quebec is an extensive and elegant town, elevated upon a rocky foundation, at the distance of 120 leagues from the sea, where the confluence of the rivers St. Charles and St. Lawrence takes place. Few positions could be more formidable, and no intrenchments better sunk, or more numerously defended, than those by which it was then protected. When Wolfe first beheld the local strength of the town, the adverse nature of the country, and the number and excellent disposition of the enemy, though of an adventurous and bold temperament, he is reported to have thought the station impregnable, and to have despaired of success. No labour, and no vigilance, however, were spared to overcome the combination of difficulties which opposed him; and he was employed, both by night and by day, in preparations for an effectual assault. He erected batteries upon Orleans and Levi Points, by which his guns commanded the town, above which he placed Admiral Holmes, and Admiral Saunders below. Meanwhile, by every artifice of movement and counter-march,

battle of New Orleans, at which the British, to adopt a dictinction without a difference, were defeated without being beaten. To the memory of Pakenham and Gibbs a monument was decreed by the House of Commons, which has been completed by Westmacott, and will be recognised near the south door of St. Paul's Cathedral. Statues of the two Generals, in their regimentals, the one resting his arm on the other, are there elevated, upon a plain pedestal, which has no inscription. It is an unsatisfactory performance; the figures are stiff and unmeaning, and really suggest an inglorious assurance of facts, for they look like the shades of discomfited mortals. An engraving of the monument is given in the plate which faces the notice of Captain Westcott, in the life of Nelson.

Digitized by Google

he studied to seduce the French commander, Montcalm, from his security; but in vain: strong in the conviction of his advantage, no feint could betray the latter into any change of station.

The fatigue and anxiety attendant upon these arduous duties already became apparent in a constitution naturally delicate; disappointment turned into disease, and the English General was laid up in violent illness. When only partially recovered, he forwarded home despatches, in which he minutely recounted the progress of the siege, and the precariousness of his situation; and though the langour of indisposition tinged the relation with despondency, still the vigour of the detail gave as strong an assurance of the ability he exercised upon the occasion, as the elegance of the expressions proved his talents as a writer and a scholar. This duty performed, he resolved to persevere to the latest extremity, and by directing some movements up the river, under Admiral Holmes, succeeded in detaching 1500 of the enemy from the town, in order to watch the result. This first diversification effected, he ordered a feint to be made by one part of the fleet upon the intrenchments below the town, while he sailed up the river himself with the greater part of his army. There he quickly shifted his men into boats, and, aided by the return of the tide, dropped down again with a rapidity which deceived all attention. The ships followed to cover his landing, but the current swept them away from the proposed point of debarkation, yet, when they did reach the shore, Wolfe determined to brave the issue, and clamber the steep ascent above them. No sooner were the orders given, than the infantry nobly swung themselves upwards by clinging to the stumps of trees and broken rocks; dislodged the sentinels that guarded the only pathway on the hill, and before the dawn had cleared, formed themselves in battle array upon the top of the eminence.

When the news of this desperate attack was conveyed to the French commander, he would scarcely credit the report, and when convinced of its reality, was content to adjudge it one of those indecisive feints in which Wolfe had so often indulged. But he was soon and terribly undeceived; for advancing to observe the movement, he beheld with astonishment that both the fleet and army perfectly commanded the town above and below, and that nothing but the most decisive courage could save

Digitized by Google

him from ruin. Accordingly he led forth his troops with promptitude, and after a disposition on both sides, marked by great activity and skill, the contest mingled with rigorous valour. Wolfe's principal direction to his men was to reserve their fire until they drew close to the enemy; they obeyed, and the consequent destruction was awful. Foremost himself in the onset, he received a bullet-wound in the head; but disregarding the injury, he bound a kerchief over his brow, and led on a fresh attack. Another and deeper wound pierced his stomach, which he also concealed, and was still enthusiastic in encouragement and example, when a third bullet penetrated his breast, and he was conveyed exhausted from the midst of slaughter. But the victory was already decided, and though the detachment which had been ordered up the river now returned fresh and uninjured into action, still the main body of the enemy was routed, and their reinforcement quickly shared a similar fate.

Removed behind the ranks, and only attended by a private and an officer, Wolfe, though he lay struggling with agony, seemed to feel but one care, and that regarded the fortune of the battle. He entreated the orderly to lift him up, and enable him to enjoy a view of the contest, but the hurry of death already dimmed his eyes, and he was forced to confess that all was clouded and indistinct to his sight. He then emphatically requested the officer who stood by to give him an account of what passed, and was thus told that the enemy appeared greatly broken. This information did not much quiet him, and he repeated his enquiries, until he was told that they were decidedly routed. This news seemed to give him ease, but he reiterated his questions until he was promptly assured that they fled in all directions; whereupon he faintly exclaimed, 'I am satisfied,' and instantly expired. Such was the death of Wolfe, grievous to his country, but glorious to himself; and though the victory he perished to gain was dearly desirable, still the loss by which it was purchased was for a long time lamented as irreparable. His military reputation amongst his countrymen was singularly eminent, and characterised in its progress by the most flattering circumstances. Unaided by family interest, and unsupported by the intrigues of party, or the spirit of faction, he had risen to the first honours of his profession, without experiencing the weakness of age, or the

Digitized by Google

inconstancy of fortune, and now fell in the arms of victory, at the premature age of five-and-thirty. Few men have been more warmly admired, or more severely regretted; the public mind was deeply agitated upon the occasion, and though the news of victory was heard with delight, the intelligence of his death was received with bitter gloom. Time has softened the asperity of that sorrow, and other generals have enviably preserved the display of similar talents, and emulated the renown of his fall. The historian is therefore content with a feeling of melancholy pride, to record the name of General Wolfe in happy competition with the fame of the heroes of antiquity; and to point out his example for the encouragement of his own age, and the imitation of ages to come.

SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN.

IMMEDIATELY under the organ in St. Paul's Cathedral, is an inscription, of which the following is a translation:—it is a fine commemoration transferred from the spot where reposes the great architect whose single genius raised up the beauties of the edifice.

* Beneath reposes Sir Christopher Wren, Knight,
The founder of this Church and City.
He lived upwards of ninety years, not for himself,
But the public good.
Reader!

* Subdus. Conditur. Hujus. Ecclesiæ. Et. Urbis
Conditor. Christophorus. Wren. Qui. Vixit
Annos. Ultra. Nonaginta. Non. Sibi. Sed
Bono. Publico. Lector. Si. Monumentum Requiris.

Digitized by Google

If you desire his monument—
Look around!
He died on the 25th of February, in the 91st year of his age,
And of our Lord the 1723d.

There are but few persons who can desire the petty incidents of their private lives to be recorded: a great man will only wish to be known by his works; and inferior minds will generally have many reasons to fear that the particular detail of domestic habits must render their memories even less reputable and kind than otherwise they might chance to appear. This is the principal source of that barrenness for which biography has generally been so remarkable. A genius will always exclaim with Horace—"I have carved my own monument; behold it in my deeds! I have written my own epitaph; go read it in my works." Nor is there any panegyric more easily understood than such a practical one as this. Whether inscribed by the sword of the warrior, the author's pen, or the painter's pencil; whether by the chisel of the statuary, or the trowel of the architect, it comes readily and agreeably home to the best feelings of the head and the heart. In this strict sense the task of the biographer would be a stern one; a very commendable resource has therefore been admitted for him, in which he may well follow the developement of the fertile mind, and illustrate the dignity of human actions, by detecting those traits of domestic character which chequer and relieve the elevation of severer principles. The facilities at command for the compilation of the present sketch, are in this latter respect, far from numerous or engaging; but an illustrious subject must ever recommend itself; and the task is thus sure of welcome.

Our architect, born in 1632, was the son of Dr. Christopher Wren, rector of East Knowle, in Wilts, and dean of Windsor. He was educated at Westminster School, and entered of Wadham College, Oxford, in 1646. At as early an age as thirteen he had given an extraordinary specimen of proficiency and talent, by the invention of an astronomical instrument, and a pneumatic

Circumspice
Obiit. XV. Feb. Ætatis. XCI.
An. M.D.CCXXIII.

Digitized by Google

machine, the former of which he formally presented to his father with a copy of Latin verses 'On the rise of rivers.' Such promises of future eminence naturally attracted the notice of the principal heads of his University, and Wren continued the exercise of his ingenuity under the most encouraging circumstances. In 1647 he wrote a "Treatise on Spherical Trigonometry," after a new method; in 1650 took his degree of B.A.: in the year after composed an algebraical tract on the Julian period, and in 1653 took the degree of M. A. upon his election to a Fellowship in All Souls' College. The astronomical professorship of Gresham College being offered to him in 1657, he signalized himself so eminently in that chair by the solution of various difficult problems, and the discovery of many new modes of practice, that he was chosen Savilian Professor of Astronomy at Oxford, and created Doctor of Laws, in 1661.

Such were the distinctions to which Wren had attained in one pursuit of genius before he became a votary of those studies by which his name has been chiefly handed down to the admiration of posterity. His skill in architecture now recommended him to the notice of Charles the II.; and when Sir John Denham was appointed Surveyor-general of the Royal Works, Wren received an appointment to assist him. An offer was soon after made him, and upon very lucrative terms, to cross over into Africa, and superintend the fortifications ordered for the security of Tangiers; but he declined the journey on account of his health. Notwithstanding this, his desire of employment at home was favourably considered, and when the commission for repairing St. Paul's passed the great seal in 1665, he was appointed to execute the task. It was also in this year that, upon the constitution of the Royal Society, he was chosen a fellow, and made the drawings which illustrate Dr. Willis's Anatomy of the Brain. In 1665 he took a tour in France, for the purpose of improving himself in architecture; but, unfortunately, proceeded no farther on the rout towards all that is eminent in the art. His drawings for the repair of old St. Paul's were still under the consideration of Government, when, in 1666, the great fire broke out, and besides reducing fifty parochial churches, and the greatest portion of the city to ruins, did such serious damage to the Cathedral, that nothing less than a new building could be thought of.

Digitized by Google

In the following year the death of Sir John Denham made room for his appointment to be Surveyor-general; and he became not only the first architect in the country, but indeed almost the only one to whom the erection of any public works was entrusted. He had the honour of being required to plan a suitable design for rebuilding the whole city, which was laid before the King and Parliament, and sensible was the regret felt at that period, as well as ever since, that the many obstacles presented by the rights of private property prevented him from reducing that mighty scope of his invention into practice. The resignation of his Savilian Professorship was a necessary consequence of the many public employments now heaped upon him. Above these, the re-edification of St. Paul's rises the most conspicuous, for which the models were at last approved, after many clerical difficulties and alterations, during this year. This magnificent pile and chief ornament of the metropolis was commenced with signal pomp and vigour, and completed by its matchless architect within the term of fifty-five years. But previous to the foundation of the first stone in 1675, Wren was created a Knight. Of all the religious monuments existing in the Grecian style, St. Paul's, of London, is generally estimated second only to St. Peter's at Rome, while there have been some who have preferred it to that most sumptuous temple of the Christian Church. St. Peter's rose out of the wealth of the Catholic world, occupied the time and talents of twelve different architects, and was 145 years in a course of completion. Wren alone, and unaided, finished St. Paul's in much less than a fifth part of that period. Concerning the many critical preferences which have been made of the parts and the whole of these two great edifices, it would require a volume to treat; the more evident and summary distinctions between them are, that the facade of St. Paul's is considered far more consistent and complete than that of St. Peter's; the same observation extends to the domes; ours of St. Paul's is simple, graceful, and unique; that of St. Peter's is heavy, broken by windows, and incongruous. In every variety of dimension, length, breadth, and elevation, St. Peter's exeels; in valuable statuary, splendid mausoleums, and internal riches, in gems, pictures, bronze, and marble, the Roman Church puts all comparison with the Protestant at defiance. St. Peter's is the

Digitized by Google

chef-d'œuvre of the more ancient and more gorgeous church; St. Paul's the masterpiece of the reformed and less symbolical religion.

But the wondrous labours, inseparable from the building of St. Paul's, were far from the only occupations which at this memorable period were entrusted to the capacity of Sir Christopher Wren. He rebuilt almost all the parochial churches of London; of which, St. Stephen's, Walbrook, has been the most praised, and St. Bride's is the most harmonious performance. The compliment paid to the former church by the celebrated Earl of Burlington is truly signal. That nobleman himself, no mean judge of architecture, pronounced it the finest model of Wren's versatile ability; and held it to be at least equal, if not superior, to any thing extant even in classical Italy. The London Monument is another beautiful erection, in direct memory of the event which, fortunately for the architect, led to all these improvements. With this, no person of taste can find a fault, unless it be in the shameful falsehoods which disgrace the inscription upon it.

Nor were the immediate precincts of the city of London the only sphere of Wren's exertions: the Theatre at Oxford; the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge; a great part of the Hospital at Greenwich, and the whole of that at Chelsea; and the great belfry of Christ's Church, Oxford, are all the fruits of his industry. A just tribute was paid to his scientific excellence in 1680, when the Royal Society unanimously elected him their President. His professional trusts also continued to encrease; in 1683, he was appointed Architect and Commissioner of Chelsea Hospital; in 1684 he was made Comptroller of Windsor Castle; and in 1698 was chosen Surveyor-general, and Commissioner for the Repair of Westminster Abbey. But his reputation advanced still farther in situations of personal credit and public distinction; for he was successively elected Member of several Parliaments, for Plympton, Weymouth, and Melcombe Regis. The duties of this station he performed in an unexceptionable manner, until an act of the ministry, in the year 1718, disgraceful to themselves, and discreditable to the country, induced him to retire from public life. He was then summarily dismissed from his situation of Surveyor-general upon a mere matter of party, at the venerable age of 86 years. For five years longer, life was spared to him;

Digitized by Google

it was spent in seclusion, relieved by scientific pursuits and the study of the Scriptures; until a cold, caught in coming from Hampton Court to London, put a period to days unexampled for national services, in the month of February, 1723. Wren is said to have indulged a very pardonable act of proud regard for his great work, by causing himself to be conveyed to St. Paul's once every year, when he was most particular in surveying every part of the edifice. His interment, as is sometimes, though not always, the case with great men who have been unmeritedly injured and wantonly neglected, was in every respect suitable to the dignity of his reputation. The grave was sunk in the south transept of the crypt of the Cathedral, where a plain stone tomb covers his remains.

The spot is supposed to be that on which the high altar of the old structure stood, and the stone is thus inscribed:—

†

Here lieth
Sir CHRISTOPHER WREN, Knight,
The Builder of the Cathedral Church of
ST. PAUL,
Who Died
In the Year of Our LORD
MDCCXXIII.
And of His Age XCI.

Sir Christopher Wren was eminently fortunate in the prominent circumstances of his life. Of his rank as an author in science, no other estimate need be quoted than that of Sir Isaac Newton, who distinguishes him as one of the chief princes of mathematics during the age in which he lived. His moral character was equal to the excellence of his mind; equanimity in temper, sobriety in habit, modesty in the developement of his talents, and piety in his principles, made his life satisfactory to himself and estimable to his cotemporaries. He lived at a period which afforded a scope and employment for the exercise of his art, not only unprecedented in the history of his country, but since his time without a parallel; and he proved himself highly worthy of his peculiar fortune. Sir Christopher Wren has

Digitized by Google

always been, and still is, placed at the head of the list of British Architects. St. Paul's is the test of his fame; in religious edifices no man has displayed an ability equally varied, beautiful, and ingenious. In his towers, steeples, and spires, this taste is peculiarly observable; and his judgment cannot be better evidenced than by remarking the many gross and heavy anomalies which disfigure the works of his successors, and were so cautiously avoided in all his productions. Perhaps no one has effected so much, and but few indeed have done any thing that is better. A large collection of his drawings and designs was purchased after his death by his College, All Souls', and are honourably deposited in its library, where a good bust has been placed as a tribute to the greatness of his memory.

THE END.

Digitized by Google

A

GENERAL INDEX

OF THE

MONUMENTAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Abercrombie, Sir Ralph, i. 1.
Addison, Joseph, i. 13.
Agard, Arthur, i. 204.
Albemarle, Monk, Duke of, i. 23.
André, Major, i. 312.
Anne of Celve, i. xviii.
——, Duchess of Gloucester, i. xviii.
Arabella Stuart, Lady, i. 36.
Argyle, John Duke of, i. 40.
Arnold, Samuel, i. 52.
Atterbury, Francis, i. 57.
Ayrton, Edmund, i. 184.

Banks, Thomas, i. 64.
Barrow, Isaac, i. 69.
Barry, James, i. 74.
——, Spranger, ii. 501.
Bartleman, James, i. 332.
Bayne, William, ii. 821.
Beauclerk, Lord Aubrey, ii. 869.
Beaufort, Margaret, i. 87.
Beaumont, Francis, i. 94.
Beyhn, Aphara, i. 99.
Beresford, John Theophilus, ii. 758.
Betterton, Thomas, i. 107.
Blake, Robert, i. 115.
Blair, William, ii. 821.
Blanche of the Tower, i. xix.
Blow, John, i. 125.
Booth, Barton, i. 131.
Bowes, General, ii. 792.
Boyce, William, i. 139.
Brock, Sir Isaac, ii. 944.
Buchan, William, i. 144.
Buckingham, Countess of, i. 152.
————, Villiers, Duke of, i. 151.
———————————————
i. 161.
———— Sheffield, ————
i. 170.
Burgess, Richard Rundell, i. 427.
Burney, Charles, Mus. Doc. i. 181.
———— LL.D. i. 186.
Busby, Richard, D.D. i. 191.
Butler, Samuel, i. 196.
——, James, see Ormond.

Cadogan, Colonel, ii. 761.
Camden, William, i. 203.
Casaubon, Isaac, ii. 496.
Chamberlen, Hugh, i. 211.
Chambers, Ephraim, i. 219.
Chatham, Pitt, Earl of, i. 225.
Chaucer, Geoffrey, i. 250.
Cibber, Susanna, i. 266.
Collingwood, Cuthbert, Lord, i. 272.
Congreve, William, 279.

Digitized by Google

Cooke, Edward, i. 292.
———, Benjamin, i. 331.
———, John, ii. 699.
Coote, Sir Eyre, i. 297.
Cornewall, James, i. 303.
Cornwallis, Marquis, i. 307.
Cowley, Abraham, i. 319.
Cracherode, Clayton Mordaunt, i. 206.
Craggs, James, i. 279.
Craufurd, Robert, ii. 759.
Cromwell, Oliver, i. 334.
Cumberland, Richard, i. 351.
Croft, William, i. 328.

Davenant, Sir William, i. 362.
D'Estry, Abbot, i. xvii.
Denham, Sir John, i. 369.
Derby, Countess of. See Beaufort.
Devereux, Robert. See Essex.
Donne, John, i. 379.
Drayton, Michael, i. 390.
Dryden, John, i. 398.
Dundas, Thomas, i. 417.
Dunk, George Montague. See Halifax.
Duff, George, ii. 683.

Edmond Crouchback, i. xix.
Edward the Confessor, his chapel, i. xiii.
————————, his tomb, i. xiv.
Edward the III. ditto, i. xv.
Edward the V. ditto, i. xxi.
Edward the VI. ditto i. xx.
Editha, Queen, ditto, ditto.
Eleanor, Queen, i. xv.
Elizabeth, Queen, i. xxi.
Eliot. See Heathfield.
Eltham, John of, i. xix.
Essex, Devereux, Earl of, i. 419.

Fairborne, Sir Palmer, i. 178.
Falknor, Robert, i. 426.
Fletcher. See Beaumont.
Foote, Samuel, i. 434.
Fox, Charles James, i. 451.
Freind, John, i. 477.
Fuseli, Henry, i. 489.

Garrick, David, ii. 495.
Gay, John, ii. 511.
Gibbs, General, ii. 946.
Godolphin, Sidney, Earl of, ii. 519.
————, Charles, ii. 520.
Goldsmith, Oliver, ii. 522.
Grabe, John Ernest, ii. 560.
Grattan, Henry, ii. 533.
Gray, Thomas, ii. 545.

Hales, Stephen, ii. 559.
Halifax, Montague, Earl of, ii. 551.
———, Saville, —— ii. 551.
———, Montague Dunk, Marquis of, ii. 551.
Handel, George Frederick, ii. 559.
Hanway, Joseph, ii. 567.
Hardinge, George Nicholas, ii. 748.
Hardy, Sir Thomas, ii. 576.
Hastings, Warren, ii. 578.
Hay, Major-General, ii. 762.
Heathfield, Eliot, Lord, ii. 585.
Henry the III. his tomb, i. xv.
Henry the V. ditto. i. xvi.
Henry the VII. his chapel, i. ix.
————————. and Queen, tomb of, i. xx.
Hoghton, Daniel, ii. 790.
Holmes, Admiral, ii. 915.
Horner, Francis, ii. 589.
Howard, Charles. See Nottingham.
————, John, ii. 592.
Howe, Richard, Earl, ii. 602.
——, George Augustus, Viscount, ii. 602.
Harvey, James, ii. 614.
Hutt, John, do. do.

Johnson, Samuel, ii. 617.
Jones, Sir William, ii. 631.
Jonson, Ben, ii. 689.

Digitized by Google

Kempenfelt, Richard, ii. 611.
Kneller, Sir Godfrey, ii. 646.

Langworth, Robert, ii. 790.
Le Marchant, Gaspard, ii. 791.

Macleod, Charles, ii. 761.
Mackinnon, Henry, ii. 759.
Manners, Lord Robert, ii. 821.
Mansfield, Murray, Earl of, ii. 651.
Mary, Queen, i. xxi.
Mason, William, ii. 658.
Mead, Richard, i. 481.
Milton, John, ii. 665.
Monk, George. See Albemarle.
———, Nicholas, i. 29.
Montague, Edward. See Sandwich.
————, Charles. See Halifax.
————, James, ii. 614.
Moore, Sir John, ii. 676.
Mosse, James Robert, ii. 695.
Murray, William. See Mansfield.
Myers, Sir William, ii. 791.

Nelson, Viscount, ii. 683.
Newton, Sir Isaac, ii. 703.
Nottingham, Howard, Earl of, ii. 711.

Opie, John ii. 719.
Ormond, Butler, Duke of, ii. 724.

Paoli, Pascal de, ii. 734.
Pakenham, Sir Edward, ii. 946.
Parr, Thomas, i. 380.
Perceval, Spenser. ii. 741.
Philips, John, ii. 748.
Phillipa, Queen, her tomb, i. xv.
Picton, Sir Thomas, ii. 756.
Pitt. See Chatham.
——, William, ii. 765.
Plenderleath, John, i. 211.
Pocock, Sir George, ii. 920.
Ponsonby, Sir William, ii. 788.
Prior, Mathew, ii. 792.
Purcell, Henry, ii. 798.

Rennie, John, ii. 801.
Reynolds, Sir Joshua, ii. 807.
Richard the II. his tomb, i. xvi.
Richmond, Countess of. See Beaufort.
Riou, Edward, ii. 683.
Rodney, Lord, ii. 815.
Ross, General, ii. 945.
Rowe, Nicholas, ii. 823.

Sandwich, Montague, Earl of, ii. 828.
Saville, Sir George. See Halifax.
Sebert, King, i. xviii.
Shakspeare, ii. 835.
Sharpe, Granville, ii. 840.
Sheridan, Richard Brinsley, ii. 846.
Shovel, Sir Cloudesley, ii. 858.
Shrewsbury, Talbot, Earl and Countes of, i. xix.
Somerset, Duchess of, i. xvii.
Spenser, Edmund, ii. 865.
Stanhope, James, Earl, ii. 869.
————, Philip, ditto, ii. 871.
————, Charles, ditto, ii. 872.
St. John the Evangelist, his chapel, i. xviii.
Stuart. See Arabella, Lady.

Thomson, James, ii. 876.

Vernon, Admiral, ii. 885.
Wager, Sir Charles, ii. 905.
Warren, Sir Peter, ii. 909.
Watson, Admiral, ii. 915.
Watts, Isaac, ii. 927.
West, Temple, ii. 912.
——, Benjamin, ii. 933.
William of Windsor, i. xix.
Wolfe, General, ii. 941.
Wren, Sir Christopher, ii. 950.

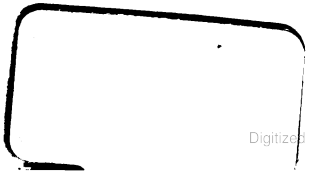
Digitized by Google

LONDON:
PRINTED BY S. AND R. BENTLEY, DORSET STREET.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google


Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google